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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you heed DEQ's advice to stay out of the water whenever it issues red flag notices?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Foremost Promo

Foremost Foods Saipan awards $1,500 in prizes for its "Some Things Just Go Together" promo.

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Leaf Painting

When Ernie David arrived on Saipan four years ago, he brought with him his passion for painting.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

World Cup

The world comes to Soweto for a celebration of soccer, music and unity.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Guard at Kagman detention ARRESTED

» Officer allegedly used authority to force minor to engage in sex acts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested yesterday a guard at the CNMI's Juvenile Detention Unit in Kagman who allegedly used his position of authority to force a ward to engage in sex acts while the minor was in custody.

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'Foreign workers are protected, respected'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Amid the divisive talks about a federal proposal to grant improved status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the Commonwealth continues to recognize the contributions of foreign workers to the local economy and society.

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Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, seated, shares a light moment with Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, right as representatives of the Filipino community look on, during yesterday's proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial: $5.3M so far given to CUC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that $5.3 million has so far been given to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. since declaring a state of emergency for the CNMI on Tuesday so he could reprogram money for CUC.

See FITIAL on Page 4

Cooling tips while keeping your power bill low

By DENCIO MANGLONA
STUDENT INTERN

With the recent increase in power rates, reducing one's daily consumption of electricity has become even more important. A typical household spends almost 20 percent of its utility bill on cooling. Fortunately, the CNMI Division of Energy has some simple, effective energy-saving habits that can save some money. Try these simple tips to start saving today:

■ Use a fan to circulate warm and cool air. Fans consume a great deal less energy than air conditioners.

■ Improve on old systems. Ask a serviceperson about up-

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ON THE NET

■ More information about keeping cool and comfortable while saving money: http://www.energystar.gov.

Mayor eyes other funding source for LibDay activities. PAGE 2
Abramoff released from Md. prison to halfway house. PAGE 3

Local

Mayor eyes other funding source for LibDay activities

Newly-appointed Saipan Municipal Council member Ralph N. Yumul is joined by Rep. Rey Tebuteb, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, and Rep. Ray Yumul shortly after the swearing in ceremony yesterday at the Mayor's Office.

CLARISSA DAVID

» Olopai is chosen grand marshal for parade

By CLARISSA DAVID
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REPORTER

Pending the approval of the $45,000 budget request for the Liberation Day festivities, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores is looking at the possibility of using funds from other programs to pay for expenses related to the July 4 celebration.

Flores told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that both the governor and the Legislature have expressed their support for his budget request but there are a few things that still have to be resolved.

According to Flores, the stray dog program of the Mayor's Office has sufficient money that can be used by the Liberation Day committee.

"I'm willing to allow that portion of the money to be used for this but I would like also to be guaranteed by the Legislature and the Executive Branch that they will be restored because this is the stray dog funding," Flores said.

Aside from the budget request, proceeds from the ticket sales of the Liberation Day Queen candidates will also be used to cover the Liberation Day expenses.

The initial counting of tickets sold was done at the Mayor's Office yesterday.

Saipan grand marshal

Flores disclosed that a grand marshal for Saipan has already been chosen for the Liberation Day parade.

Carolinian author and cultural preservationist Lino M. Olopai was chosen for his outstanding contribution in preserving local history and culture and his positive influence on today's youth.

Olopai is the author of the book *The Rope of Tradition*, published in 2004 by the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Flores said the grand marshals for Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands will be identified next week.

New Municipal Council member

Ralph N. Yumul is the newest member of the Saipan Municipal Council and was sworn in yesterday morning at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Yumul will be joining Council members Ramon Camacho and Eric Diaz who were elected to their positions in last year's election.

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Court allows continued release of 4 convicted of human smuggling

Pending their sentencing, the four Chinese nationals who were convicted of attempting to sneak into Guam from Rota have been allowed to remain free for the time being.

After taking all matters into consideration, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Alsup said that Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang could remain on release.

Alsup said there was no likelihood of their fleeing or being a danger to the community.

The judge ordered that the conditions of release be amended to include additional conditions: for the defendants not to contact in any way the family of the cooperating witness in the case. The witness's mother, wife and daughter are in China.

After a five-day trial in federal court, the jury on Tuesday found the defendants guilty of conspiring to defraud the United States. The court set the sentencing for Sept. 14, 2010 at 2pm.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said the defendants face a potential term of not more than five years.

The prosecution said the defendants attempted to illegally enter Guam from the CNMI using small rubber boats to cross the 30 miles of open ocean separating the two U.S. territories.

The fifth defendant, Jingfan Zhang, male, entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty. He testified for the prosecution during the trial.

Jingfan Zhang disclosed that their intent to proceed to Guam on board two inflatable boats from Rota was to seek asylum and find jobs.

Jingfan Zhang testified how they prepared the boats and how authorities arrested them at the West Harbor docks on Rota in the early morning of Jan. 30, 2010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Police cadets complete emergency vehicle operator course training

Thirty-eight members of the 20th Police Academy Cycle, including five from Yap, completed yesterday their 40-hour Emergency Vehicle Operator Course.

The cadets learned about proper driving, maintaining, and maneuvering police emergency vehicles at the Saipan airport field.

EVOC is part of the courses needed to graduate from the police academy, according to drill instructor Sgt. Anthony Macaranas.

Macaranas said the cadets had their EVOC classroom training last week and began their field training last Monday.

Under this training, cadets are taught a series of driving techniques such as proper hand steering, inspection, proper responding, and safe pursuit of vehicles.

"They've been doing good. They took exams this morning and I want to grade them later on," Macaranas told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said it is very important for cadets to learn about techniques in safe driving because there's a lot of liability in driving emergency vehicles on the road.

Macaranas said after the EVOC course, the cadets will be learning about firearms.

The training for the 20th Police Academy Cycle cadets kicked off in the third week of February 2010. The training is expected to be completed in August this year. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Abramoff released from Md. prison to halfway house

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP)—Disgraced Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff has been released from prison to a halfway house in the mid-Atlantic region, the Federal Bureau of Prisons said Wednesday.

Abramoff, 51, was released Tuesday from the minimum-security federal prison camp in western Maryland where he had been confined since November 2006 for fraud, corruption and conspiracy convictions, spokesman Edmond Ross said.

Abramoff was moved to a residential re-entry center, or halfway house, in a region encompassing much of Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, Ross said. He said he didn't know the location of the halfway house. Calls to the agency's Community Correctional Management section, which oversees halfway houses, weren't immediately returned.

Abramoff's scheduled release date is Dec. 4, Ross said. He said Abramoff could spend the last two to three weeks of his sentence in home confinement.

Editor's Note: Abramoff and his company, Greenberg Traurig, used to lobby for the CNMI in the late '90s to stave off efforts by Congress to take over labor and immigration systems in the Commonwealth. The passage of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act in May 2008 finally paved the way for the federalization of the CNMI.

Abramoff

The Bureau of Prisons has no home address for Abramoff, spokeswoman Felicia Ponce said.

Abramoff was sentenced in 2006 to nearly six years for a fraudulent Florida casino deal. He got a four-year sentence in 2008 for conspiring to defraud the U.S., corrupting public officials and defrauding his clients in a separate case.

Because the judge ordered the sentences to run concurrently, the shorter sentence was subsumed by the longer one.

"It's usually a package deal, just for judicial economy purposes," Ross said.

Other factors, such as time off for good behavior, can further reduce an inmate's time served, Ross said.

As part of his plea deal, Abramoff cooperated in a long-running Justice Department investigation that led to the convictions of former Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, former Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles and several top Capitol Hill aides.

Although he has expressed remorse, Abramoff also cooperated with the author of a 2008 book, *The Perfect Villain: John McCain and the Demonization of Lobbyist Jack Abramoff*, in which he blamed Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., for making him the fall guy.

"I never expected that I would have to go to prison until it became clear that the media could not allow this play to close without the hanging of the villain," Abramoff says in the book by Boston journalist Gary Chafetz.

He is the subject of a documentary film, *Casino Jack*, released this year. A fictionalized version, *Casino Jack and the United States of Money*, starring Kevin Spacey, is in the works.

Hofschneider seeks update on Tinian homestead development

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) asked Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta for an update on the status of the latest homestead lots awarded on Tinian.

"Specifically, when does your office anticipate allowing homesteaders to begin improvements on the lots?" Hofschneider asked Babauta in a June 9 letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Babauta, who was appointed and confirmed as Department of Public Lands secretary early this year, said yesterday that he will reply to Hofschneider's letter next week.

In April 2009, DPL granted homestead lots to 429 Tinian families who waited for years for a place to build their homes.

Each homestead lot has a size of anywhere between 800 square meters to 1,000 sq.m.

At the time, DPL said Tinian residents will be given up to four years, instead of the normal three-year period, to develop the lots granted to them.

Hofschneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said many of those who were granted homestead lots have been inquiring as to the status of the homestead program.

"During your confirmation hearing, it was anticipated that homesteaders would be allowed to begin improvement work on the lots within 60 days. At that time, it was assumed that the permitting process would be completed within that period," he said in his one-page letter.

Babauta, when he was officially sworn in as DPL secretary on April 8, said he plans on continuing the projects initiated by his predecessor, John Delrosario Jr., particularly the Tinian West Subdivision on Tinian and the new Finafa Homestead Subdivision on Rota.

The Tinian West Subdivision consists of over 400 lots and the Finafa Homestead is made up of 143. Both subdivisions require significant road accessibility development.

In the entire CNMI, there are more than 3,400 homestead applications pending.

BOE revises regulations on travel and record retention

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education wants the education commissioner to first sign off on all travels made by Public School System officials and personnel before pushing through.

Guerrero

Under the proposed regulations, all CNMI travel requests should pass through the PSS Commissioner's Office or the Board of Education—whichever is appropriate—no later than 10 work days before the start of travel except for extenuating circumstances.

Under the existing travel policy, both off-island and inter-island travels require that requests be submitted within five to 10 working days. However, due to some immediate travels made to each island, there were some instances when this policy was violated.

Extending the submission of travel requests by 10 days for off-island travel will give PSS ample time to process and assess all the requirements for the trip.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero said yesterday the amendment will ensure the "continuous smooth flow" of PSS operations.

The board also changed its record-keeping rules with the implementation of a paperless system and a proposal to reduce the amount of time required for PSS to retain and keep the documents submitted by job applicants.

It was learned that the PSS Human Resource Office constantly receives documents from potential applicants.

In an effort to reduce the amount of papers and files in the Human Resource Office, cutting the time required to keep these documents has become necessary.

"This amendment to this regulation allows for PSS to release documents submitted by employees not hired by PSS after a period of time," the proposed regulation stated.

This will also allow the Human Resource Office to reduce the amount of paper in its office as well as require applicants who have not been hired the opportunity to update required documentations should they wish to re-apply with PSS.

JUNE SATURDAY Specials

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2nd series of Grazing Academy workshops on Tinian

The second series of workshops by the Northern Marianas College's Marianas Grazing Academy will be held on the island of Tinian from June 16-18, 2010. The session will be held at the NMC Instructional Site, with registration beginning at 7:30am and activities following from 8:00am to 3:30pm each day. The Academy is aimed at building local agricultural capacity and educating farmers and ranchers about increasing the economic viability of their products.

The workshops, which require no registration or participation fee, will include training on pasture and livestock management issues, including soil management, cattle breeds and genetic differences, grazing animal behavior, range and pasture animal nutrition, ruminant digestion, animal handling and facilities, and animal health and management. The workshops will also include farm visits, field activities, and an open discussion on the local beef industry.

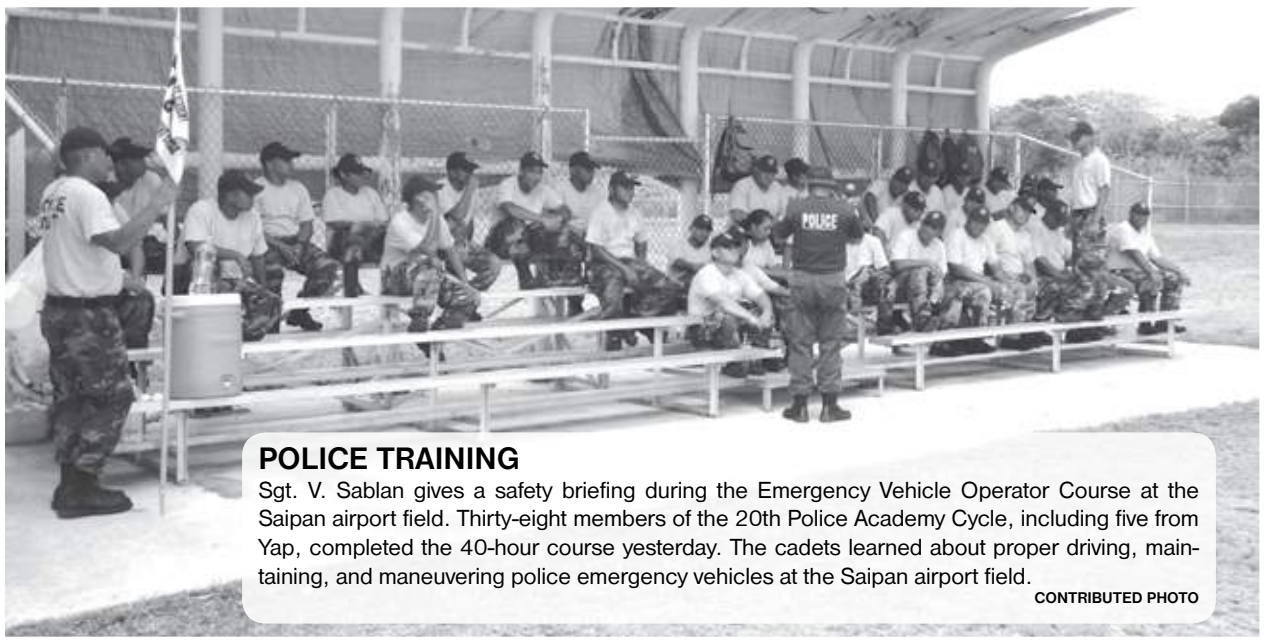
The Academy, a project organized through a collaborative effort between the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service and experienced pasture, livestock, and soil specialists from the University of Hawaii, University of the Virgin Islands, and the University of Guam, seeks to enhance the production of high quality meat products, which can serve to improve food sustainability through the adoption of appropriate technologies and practices in grazing and livestock management.

"The scheduled workshops are continuations of the sessions we held earlier this year in February and March," said Dr. Allan Sabaldica, who heads the CREES Livestock Improvement Program. "We encourage local ranchers to take advantage of the information to be share at the workshop and look forward to another great turnout."

The Academy also seeks to provide local farmers, ranchers, technical resource personnel and other interagency collaborators with assistance and guidance in planning and developing special local projects to improve the economic viability of grazing activities in the CNMI.

To register for the workshops or for more information, please contact Lawrence Duponcheel or Dr. Allan Sabaldica at 433-0639 or 433-2576.

The Marianas Grazing Academy project has been made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Outreach for Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Program. ***(PR)***



POLICE TRAINING
Sgt. V. Sablan gives a safety briefing during the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course at the Saipan airport field. Thirty-eight members of the 20th Police Academy Cycle, including five from Yap, completed the 40-hour course yesterday. The cadets learned about proper driving, maintaining, and maneuvering police emergency vehicles at the Saipan airport field.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COOLING

From Page 1

dates or improvements you can make to boost efficiency. An investment now could mean big savings in years to come.

■ Use energy-saving settings. Be sure to use energy-saving settings on appliances that have the options, such as dishwashers or computers.

■ Set your refrigerator to the right temperature. It should 37°-40°F. The freezer should be set at 0-5°F.

Do full loads when do laundry.

■ Use cloth shopping bags. Think about how many plastic bags you use each time you go to the grocery store. Cloth bags are reusable and much sturdier. Some grocery stores also offer a discount if you use your own bags.

■ Keep appliances in good repair. For example, clean the coils on your refrigerator. This helps save energy and extend the life of the appliance.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program also offers the following low- to no-cost energy-efficient cooling tips to beat the heat while saving you some money:

No-Cost

■ Check your air-conditioning system's air filter every month. If the filter looks dirty, change it, but change the filter at least every three months. A dirty filter will slow air flow and make the system work harder to keep you cool, wasting energy.

■ Run your ceiling fan to create a cool breeze. If you raise your thermostat by only two degrees and use your ceiling fan, you can lower cooling costs by up to 14 percent. Remember that ceiling fans cool you, not the room, so when you leave the room make sure to turn off the fan.

■ Pull the curtains and shades closed before you leave your home to keep the sun's rays from overheating the interior of your home. If you can, move container trees and plants in front of sun-exposed windows to serve as shade.

Low-Cost

■ Remember to have your air-conditioning system serviced annually to ensure it's running at optimum efficiency for money and energy savings.

■ Swap out incandescent bulbs with more energy-efficient lighting choices. Energy Star qualified lighting not only uses less energy, it also produces about 75 percent less heat than incandescent lighting, so cooling bills will be reduced, too.

■ Seal your air ducts. As much as 20 percent of the air moving through your home's duct system is lost due to leaks and poor connections. Seal duct work using mastic sealant or metal tape and insulate all the ducts that you can access (such as those in attics, crawlspaces, unfinished basements, and garages).

■ Make sure that connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet floors, walls, and ceilings. These are common locations to find leaks and disconnected ductwork.

Other Tips

■ When buying a room air conditioner, look for one that has earned EPA's Energy Star. If every room air conditioner in the United States were Energy Star qualified, they would prevent 900 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions annually—equivalent to the emissions from 80,000 cars.

■ Add insulation to your attic to keep cool air in. If every American household did so, Americans would collectively save more than $1.8 billion in yearly energy costs.

■ Hire a contractor to seal and insulate the interior ductwork in your home (the ducts you can't reach yourself).

■ If your central air conditioning unit is more than 12 years old, replacing it with a model that has earned EPA's Energy Star could cut your cooling costs by 30 percent.

FITIAL

From Page 1

CUC needs immediate fuel purchases to run its power plants.

Fitial said the central government paid $300,000 on Tuesday, $2.5 million on Thursday, and another $2.5 million yesterday. He said the $300,000 came from security deposits of CUC customers.

The first $2.5 million came from the Department of Public Lands on Thursday morning, or within hours of Fitial's formal letter to both DPL and the Commonwealth Development Authority, asking for the remittance of payments due the central government. Fitial said CDA was to also remit $2.5 million yesterday.

The $5.3 million is much more than the $1.2 million that the governor earlier said will be paid to CUC this week.

The central government has been paying for DPL and CDA utilities and administrative costs, and these two agencies reimburse the central government for these expenses. Fitial's letter prompted the two agencies to remit these payments.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said the $2.5 million was for the reimbursement of administrative and utilities cost covering Fiscal Year 2009 and the first two quarters of FY 2010.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan did not return calls for comment yesterday.

The governor said the payments to CUC will prevent rolling blackouts from happening again.

But Fitial said yesterday he hopes the Legislature will provide him a reprogramming authority so that he does not have to invoke his constitutional authority to declare a CNMI state of emergency for him to be able to reprogram money for CUC.

The government is CUC's biggest customer. The central government, PSS, and Northern Marianas College owe CUC $3.8 million in past due utility bills.

FOREIGN

From Page 1

Fitial signed yesterday a proclamation declaring June Northern Marianas Islands-Philippines Friendship Month, highlighted by today's 112th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Majority of the CNMI's foreign workers are Filipinos, numbering some 20,000.

"Everybody who wants to stay here is always welcome," Fitial said, although he has always qualified that foreign workers came here to fulfill an employment contract and not to seek citizenship.

He said foreign workers here are protected and respected.

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, during the proclamation signing, said the Filipino community is thankful for the opportunity given them to work in the CNMI.

Macaraig said the CNMI and the Philippines share the same historical bond as both struggled for freedom, and that bond was sealed by economic partnership.

"These bonds shall never cease between the CNMI and the Philippines," Macaraig said as he and Fitial were surrounded by members of the Filipino community in traditional Filipino attire, the *barong tagalog*.

After the ceremony, Fitial told Macaraig that Filipinos in the CNMI "understand and respect the meaning of respect."

"The only people who are creating all these confusion are the activists…who are not Filipinos. You can quote [me on] that," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial, before signing the proclamation, shared a light moment with representatives of the Filipino community, saying there's a new similarity between the Philippines and the CNMI.

"My name is Benigno, and your new president is also named Benigno ("Noynoy" Aquino III)," Fitial said, as laughter erupted in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning. Aquino was sworn into office on Wednesday.

He also said that paragraph four of the proclamation—that some Filipinos have become members of CNMI families through marriage—also speak about him. Fitial is married to Josie Fitial, a native of Nueva Ecija in the Philippines.

Fitial said he will never have ill-feelings toward foreign workers, pointing out that he—as a former lawmaker—was the one who introduced the bill that became law to allow foreign workers to come to the CNMI. That law is Public Law 3-66.

"We needed to expand the economy but we didn't have enough labor so we brought in foreign labor. …Without labor, you can't produce," he told Philippine Consulate General officials and other representatives of the Filipino community.

In an interview later, Fitial said "anybody who wants to be friends with the CNMI will always be respected and protected."

Both the Philippines and the Northern Marianas were colonized by the Spaniards, and as a result, both share the same Christian faith.

In the early '80s, a large number of Filipinos and other foreign workers were brought in to the islands to work mostly in private sector businesses and this led to the success of the tourism and garment industries.

ARRESTED

From Page 1

Corrections officer Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial was arrested after an indictment was filed in federal court charging him with one count of deprivation of rights under color of law.

Leonardo M. Rapadas, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI, said that Fitial's arrest comes as part of a wider and ongoing investigation into abusive behavior by guards at the Kagman Detention Facility.

Saipan Tribune learned that FBI agents, assisted by members of the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals Service, and Department of Public Safety, served the arrest warrant on the 24-year-old Fitial at a residence on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Fitial was taken to federal court yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance. He was accompanied by court-appointed counsel Loren Sutton.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Alsup set Fitial's detention hearing and arraignment for Tuesday, June 15, at 9am.

Fitial was then remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals.

The indictment alleged that around October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial coerced the child by means of force and threats to engage in sexual acts while the minor was a ward at the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility.

In a press statement, Rapadas said Fitial is charged with violating a person's civil rights when he used his position of authority to force the person, a minor child, to engage in sexual acts while the minor was in custody.

"Guards at any correction facility have a duty to protect detainees from injury and degradation, especially when those detainees are merely children," Rapadas said.

He said the FBI leads the investigation while assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto will prosecute the case.

So far, PSS spends $15M of State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has so far spent $15 million of the first phase of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to renovate classrooms and pay for the salaries of personnel.

PSS program officer Tim Thornburgh disclosed that $5 million was used to pay for the salaries of 84 personnel—part of the 105 positions that were restored using the SFSF funding. These teacher and school counselor positions were previously cut due to the meager budget allotted by the local government.

Thornburgh said $2 million worth of school projects have already been completed; $4 million worth of school repairs and renovations are ongoing; and another $4 million have already been "encumbered"—allocated for other projects that would start in summer.

The remaining $9 million will be used to pay for the salaries of the 84 personnel and any additional hires included in the 105 approved FTEs. Other school needs such as electrical upgrade, air-conditioning unit replacement and repairs in all schools will also be covered by the remaining funds.

PSS received over $24 million in SFSF money last year as part of the first phase of the funding program. This year, Thornburgh said, PSS expects to receive the second phase of the SFSF money, amounting to $16 million, which will be used primarily to expand some programs.

One of them is the PSS One-Laptop-Per-Child Project, which will cost over $2 million to buy over 5,000 laptops for junior and high school students. About 500 of these laptops would go to private schools. These computers will be given to students next school year.

A large portion of the phase 2 money will also be used to expand the career and technological programs of PSS, according to Thornburgh, while $1.4 million will pay for the system's utility expenses.

"We're doing pretty well with our school projects…and hopefully will start major repairs and other works in the summer," he told *Saipan Tribune,* adding that PSS is on track with its use of the state fiscal stabilization fund money.

Thornburgh said that PSS is working with the concerned departments in the issuance of bids and proposals for school projects.

He assured that all projects and contracts awarded to bidders were thoroughly checked and assessed and have all met required standards and requirements.

The state fiscal stabilization fund is a one-time grant awarded to PSS and it must be used within two years.

The CNMI stands to receive $44.4 million in total SFSF. Of that amount, $32.3 million is for PSS, $3.9 million will go to the Northern Marianas College, and $8 million will go to the Office of the Governor.

Foremost Foods Saipan awards seven promo winners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Foremost Foods Saipan operations manager Rusty M. Loyola and Transpac group business manager Glen D. Hunter flank the seven promo winners during the awarding of prizes on Wednesday at the conference room of Transpac Business Center.

By CLARISSA DAVID
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REPORTER

Foremost Foods Saipan awarded on Wednesday $1,500 in prizes for the seven winners of the "Some Things Just Go Together" promo.

Consumers who bought a case of Foremost UHT milk were given a half-dozen Subway cookies and an entry coupon for the raffle draw.

The promo, which ran from March 5 to May 16, received over a thousand raffle entries. The raffle draw was held at Subway Gualo Rai Store on June 5 and coincided with a sampling of Foremost products.

Foremost Foods Saipan operations manager Rusty M. Loyola and Transpac group business manager Glen D. Hunter led the awarding ceremony held at the conference room of Transpac Business Center.

The seven winners were Teresita Matsumoto, who won an overnight stay with breakfast, lunch, and dinner at Palms Resort; Kim Sun Ja and Adora Viernes, who each won an IT&E phone with $50 load; Joanne Hernandez, who won $250 worth of Joeten gift certificates; Teresa Miller, who won a Lollipops gift certificate; and Maridetch Maclang, who won a lunch buffet certificate for four at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Having two grandchildren in their household, Matsumoto said they buy about two cases of Foremost UHT milk a month. She said her son wrote her name on the raffle ticket and was surprised when she got a call from Foremost saying that she had won.

Besides their prizes, all winners received items from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Alexie Zotomayor, Marketing and Production coordinator of Glimpses of Saipan, expressed gratitude to the public for joining the promotion and for continuing to support their products.

Zotomayor added that they can look forward to upcoming promotions from Foremost which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

NMJHS to present 4-part interactive lecture series

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society and the CNMI Judiciary will be hosting a four-part series of free lectures in July that will tackle issues important to the CNMI such as immigration, business ethics, and the U.S. Constitution.

The "Law in the Community Lecture Series – 2010" is a four-part program open to the public. Members of the legal community who attend the lectures can receive continuing legal education credits. Each presentation will begin with a lecture by a visiting law school professor, followed by an interactive audience question and answer session.

The first lecture will be held on July 8, 2010, at 6pm at the American Memorial Park Auditorium. Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor from Hofstra University of Law in New York will present a lecture on contemporary immigration issues titled: "Understanding Preemption and Immigration Law." She will discuss the U.S. Congress' complete control over immigration law, which dates back over one hundred years to the Supreme Court's decision in *Chae Chan Pig v. United States*. She will also examine the evolution of the preemption doctrine, and how federal and state/local governments interact to address the rights and privileges of non-citizens residing in the United States.

The second lecture will be held in the American Memorial Park Auditorium on July 14, 2010, at 6pm. Professor Robert J. Desiderio of the University of New Mexico will lecture on business ethics and public expectations of the business community's role in society. The lecture will examine current business practices, and what lessons we have (or should have) learned from the "Great Recession" currently unfolding.

The third lecture will be presented by Professor Desiderio in the Hillblom Library at the Guma' Hustisia on July 15 at 11:30am. Desiderio will examine business ethics issues in a broader historical context. Starting with the 20th century and the "robber baron" era, he will examine the public's opinion of whether large corporate businesses have a broader role in society than merely maximizing profits.

Concluding the series, Professor Cuison-Villazor and Professor Desiderio will conduct a seminar on the U.S. Constitution for Public School System teachers and interested members of the public and legal community. This discussion will be held July 16, 2010 at 12pm, also in the Hillblom Library at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe. Principal questions to the understanding of the Constitution will be addressed, including: who were the men who wrote the Constitution and what were their motivations? What is a constitution and what role does it play in governance? What has made the U.S. Constitution durable and what are the challenges to it today? Finally, can the U.S. Constitution remain "modern" and will it meet the "test of time"?

The Law and the Community Lecture Series is funded by the Northern Marana Island Council for the Humanities. The lecture series' goal is to introduce the Commonwealth community to several timely legal topics that stimulate critical thinking, increase discussion, and result in a better informed community capable of reaching practical solutions to its challenges.

For more information, contact Jim Stowell, the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary Historical Society's executive director, at 236-9716. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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PUBLIC NOTICE
JUNE 10, 2010

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010 AT 3:00PM. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes
   a. April 16, 2010
   b. April 26, 2010

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
1. Executive Director's Report
2. Financial Report - CDA
3. Legal Counsel's Report

IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
   a. Policy on Sale/Lease of Foreclosed Properties
2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
   a. CPA Payment Proposal
   b. Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 17-05
4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS
1. Agenda Format
2. Report Format

VII. OTHER MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CPA-RFP-004-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) BRAND NEW DESKTOP COMPUTER, ONE (1) 55" HDTV MONITOR AND ONE (1) PORTABLE COMPUTER CART** to the following airports:

- Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI
- Amata Kabua International Airport, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Chuuk International Airport, Chuuk, FSM
- Kosrae International Airport, Kosrae. FSM
- Pohnpei International Airport, Pohnpei, FSM
- Yap International Airport, Yap, FSM
- Babelthuap Koror International Airport, Republic of Palau

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Desktop Computer, One (1) 55" HDTV Monitor and One (1) Portable Computer Cart".*** The proposal must be submitted on or before **4:30 p.m., Monday, JUNE 14, 2010,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The procurement consists of the procurement and delivery of the above-subject equipment to each respective island's Airport Authority, all in accordance with the specifications. The specifications for the computers, the monitors and the carts can be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the arrival building at the Saipan International Airport. The specifications for the computer are mandated by the Federal Aviation Adminsitration so there will be absolutely no substitution of components for desktop computer system.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes and shipping and handling costs that will be charged to the company awarded the procurement, including excise tax. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

The contract period for delivery of all equipment to each respective island shall be **THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** from issuance of purchase order.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than June 7, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

June 1, 2010
Date

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 139

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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

The tragedy of absent fathers

By CHARLES A. DONOVAN
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

"As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods; they kill us for their sport." So says Shakespeare's desperate and deceived Gloucester in "King Lear." In the play, Gloucester is desperate because of the vicious blinding inflicted upon him. And he wrongly thinks the source of the wound is his loyal son, Edgar.

Modern life routinely resembles the tragic dimensions of Elizabethan drama. In the District of Columbia, that drama has more than its share of wanton boys. Over the past few months the city has been shocked by two barbaric murders that D.C. police say were committed by young men who escaped from juvenile detention facilities. The cases are particularly gut-wrenching. One concerns a 14-year-old boy who twice fled juvenile homes run by the D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. He is accused of being the driver of a minivan who, along with two passengers, sprayed gunfire that killed five people and wounded five more. Just two weeks later, three 18-year-olds previously under the agency's supervision were charged with murder in the robbery and shooting of a D.C. middle-school principal in his home in suburban Silver Spring, Md. Police on May 18 arrested a fourth suspect, 19. He became at least the eighth ward of the D.C. juvenile justice system to be charged with murder this year.

The 14-year-old had his first run-in with juvenile courts when he was 9.

One of the accused in the slaying of principal Brian Betts was 11 during his first stay in juvenile lockup on a child sex charge. Detention in the District's porous juvenile justice system—an estimated 150 youths are missing from group facilities or home detention—is among few options available under the vagaries of the city's rehabilitation-oriented law. The recent cases have spurred calls for reform. Chances are, D.C. officials will form a new juvenile justice commission. There will be demands for better databases, more funding for secure facilities and serious prison sentences for the most violent young offenders.

One member of the D.C. Council spoke of the need for "educational and vocational opportunities" and "intensive mentoring." Apparently, however, only multiple murders get press attention nowadays.

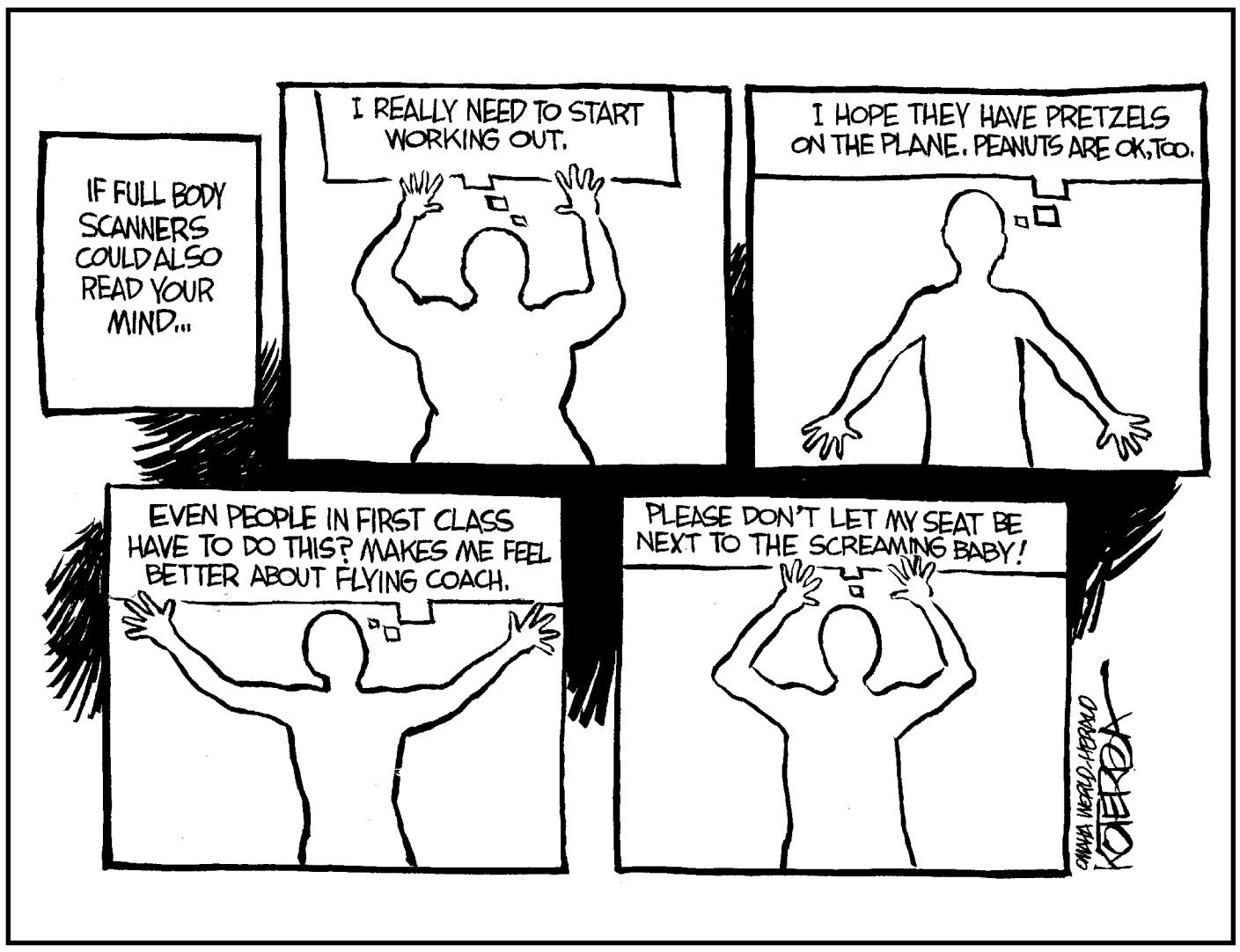
Washington Post columnist Colbert King laments how the April slaying of 17-year-old Kwanzaa Diggs on a city street merited only two lines in his newspaper. King openly frets that his bold writing about the broken system could spur critics to accuse him of wishing "to lock up youthful offenders and throw away the key." But then, writing about the hardened 14-year-old charged with murder, the Pulitzer-winning journalist names something that no critic can challenge: "There's an ugliness to childhoods like his, where relentless, wrongful behavior abides; where babies have babies by men who are boys; where children barely known by their fathers are raised by grandparents, uncles and aunts too worn out to keep up; where the warmest attachment is to older boys with guns and attitudes to match."

Spot on. Scan article after article about these homicide cases and you'll find the word "father" mentioned exactly once. And that occurs in a story about a mother who is worried that her own son, now in juvenile detention, is headed for the same fate as so many others. That troubled boy's father is dead, we learn, without further explanation.

Here is the sad reality. In the District of Columbia in 2007, roughly three of every five births were to single mothers. Preliminary data for 2008—just released by the National Center for Health Statistics—show that in the United States as a whole, four out of every 10 births are outside marriage.

For African-Americans nationwide, an astounding 72 percent of

See TRAGEDY on Next Page


IF FULL BODY SCANNERS COULD ALSO READ YOUR MIND...
I REALLY NEED TO START WORKING OUT.
I HOPE THEY HAVE PRETZELS ON THE PLANE. PEANUTS ARE OK, TOO.
EVEN PEOPLE IN FIRST CLASS HAVE TO DO THIS? MAKES ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT FLYING COACH.
PLEASE DON'T LET MY SEAT BE NEXT TO THE SCREAMING BABY!
KOEREN

A lesson for teachers: Learning to teach well is a long journey

By MIKE ROSE
Los Angeles Times

Mike Rose is on the faculty of the UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Studies and is the author of Why School?: Reclaiming Education for All of Us.

New teachers, celebrate your calling to join one of our society's grand professions. What is more important than fostering the development of young people's lives? Cherish this calling, for it will be tested.

You are entering the profession at a troubled time. For all the political talk about the importance of education, cities and states are trying to balance their budgets through cuts to schools. You will also hear conflicting messages in the national conversation about education. Teachers are universally praised as the solution to our educational problems—and condemned as the root cause of all that's wrong with our schools.

Underlying this craziness is an ideological battle to define what teaching is. And though there's not much you can do to revive the economy, you can be tough-minded and vocal about what it means to teach.

As often happens in so many spheres of modern life, there is a strong push to define teaching in technical and managerial terms. Curricula are "scripted," directing the teacher as to what to do and when. Student learning is reduced to a few scores on standardized tests. The teacher becomes a knowledge delivery mechanism whose effectiveness will be determined primarily by those scores.

You hear little from the federal Department of Education or the local school board about engaging young people's minds or about teaching as an intellectual journey. You don't often hear about the values that brought you into teaching. They are the mind and heart of the work you will be doing.

Teaching is a profoundly intellectual activity, and this applies to kindergarten as much as to Advanced Placement physics. Most people will grant the brainwork in physics, but what is neglected is the intellectual chops it takes to teach any subject to any age. The good primary school teacher knows about child development and how to engage young people across a range of subjects. She takes in a room full of kids at a glance to see who needs help, thinks on her feet, knows how to respond to a wrong answer and provides the apt example or comparison to guide a child toward clearer thinking.

You might not fancy yourself an intellectual. New teachers sometimes say that they're going into teaching because they "like kids." But remember, this is a special kind of caring, a relationship focused on children's cognitive, emotional and social development. This goes beyond affection; you are using your mind in the service of others.

You'll need to learn about the young people in front of you, where they come from and what matters to them. This will call for special effort if you, like many teachers, are a foreigner to the communities in which you teach. Listen to your students. Try to understand the world as they see it. You will be both troubled and inspired by what you hear. And you'll be smarter for it.

Don't expect things to be reciprocal. Kids will not always respond; they will even shun you. But stick with it. Show them that you're serious and available even when they're not. This will register. Young people are hyper-alert to betrayal and consistency. A veteran teacher I know tells her beginning teachers, "Don't think that because a kid can't read, he can't read you."

Get ready to fail. A lesson you slaved over will flop, or your understanding of a kid's problem will be way off base. This will happen during your first year or two, but believe me, it happens to all of us through the years. Education, wrote W.E.B. DuBois is "a matter of infinite experiment and frequent mistakes."

For some of you, this will be the first time you've failed in a classroom. It will be painful and disorienting. So learn how to handle failure, for at those moments you will be vulnerable to your own insecurities and to those who are cynical about young people, some unfortunately as close as the teachers' lounge.

It is imperative, then, that the minute you walk through the schoolhouse door, you start figuring out who the good teachers are. Get to know them, for when you fail, you'll need them to convert those failures into knowledge rather than doubt and bitterness. The same holds for some of the parents you'll meet. Learning to teach well is a long journey, full of deliberation and self-assessment. You don't want to make that journey alone.

So what are you going to do on your first day of school? This takes us back to the issue of what teaching is. Knowing the nuts and bolts of running a classroom is hugely important, and if your training was any good, you'll have some plans in place.

But just as important is the way you think about what to do that first morning. Every good teacher I've known, regardless of grade level, subject or style, has the equivalent of what musicians call "big ears"; they are curious, open, on the lookout for anything they can use in the service of some larger goal. That is what it means to think like a teacher, and that thinking defines the work you are about to begin.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Pinoy at 112 on June 12

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

We need not romanticize the past. To be sure, the *Marcha* was played that fateful day 112 years ago in Cavite del Viejo (now Kawit) when Aguinaldo's troops raised the tricolor to get the U.S. to accept Philippine independence. But the charade was political *zarzuela*. Emilio was shrewd and cunning; Dewey ignored the invitation. An American ex-hotelier from Shanghai was inveigled to attend the ceremony to represent American interest.

The nation that was born out of its opposition to colonial power would in 1898 come full circle and embark on its journey into imperialism, through its annexation of Hawaii, and buying Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guam and the Philippines. (The Northern Marianas was a freebie for the U.S. but State was not geography-savvy so it only got Guam; *España* got an extra *peseta* from Alemania.) But let's get some dates to align our perspective.

Spanish-Filipino hostilities erupted in 1896 when a network of rebels known as the *Katipunan* was discovered, leading to the execution of Jose Rizal in December that consolidated the conflict from a regional to an archipelagic discord.

Katipunan organizer Andres Bonifacio ran afoul with the brash *Chinoy* Aguinaldo of Cavite, and was shot in 1897 on sedition charges. The same year, the *Biak-na-Bato* truce sent Aguinaldo into exile to *Shiang Gang* (HK) for 400K pesos, which he used to purchase guns for the revolution. This was a year before the Boxer Revolt in China.

May 1, 1898, Dewey goes through the motions of capturing the Spanish Squadron in Manila Bay. May 19, Aguinaldo returned from exile, proclaimed independence on June 12 (nationally promulgated Aug. 1) with the hope of U.S. recognition. A dictatorial government was announced on June 19, replaced by a revolutionary government four days later; the Malolos Congress in September confirmed the election of Aguinaldo as President, and the First Philippine Republic was declared.

In February 1899, hostilities between U.S. and Filipino forces broke out; June 12, 1899, Aguinaldo declared war against the U.S. and formally began the Philippine-American War (the U.S. labels it an "Insurrection" at the Iwo Jima by the Potomac). U.S. forces captured Aguinaldo late March 1901 and he swore allegiance to the U.S. a week later in April. President Teddy Roosevelt pardoned all July 4, 1902, effectively ending the war, and converting Manila Bay as the west coast of the U.S.A.

The Philippine Commonwealth was established in 1935 with Quezon as President, and the United States granted/the Philippines gained Independence July 4, 1946, the same day Saipan was officially liberated. June 12 and July 4 are significant days for Philippine-American relations in more ways than one!

Three points of divergence: a) Philippine revolution vs. insurrection, b) Philippine Commonwealth vs. US Commonwealth of the Philippines, and c) Independence gained vs. granted. A dual citizen, I will deal with the U.S. perspective on the fourth of July. For now, I look at the Philippine journey as a common ordinary Pinoy.

The *Batasan ng Bayan* this week concluded the official count: Noynoy Aquino is the new President! He takes office at the end of the month. He will preside over a nation where almost 15 percent of its citizens reside outside the archipelago.

The Cory Constitution declared that dual citizenship was inimical to the interest of the State. RA 9225 of 2003 changed that. The retention and/or reacquisition of citizenship by even those who renounced the same in getting another citizenship is encouraged. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that dual nationality is a "status long recognized in the law" and that "a person may have and exercise rights of nationality in two countries and be subject to the responsibilities of both. The mere fact that he asserts the rights of one citizenship does not without more mean that he renounces the other", Kawakita v. U.S., 343 U.S. 717 (1952).

Noynoy, unlike his mother, now presides over a growing glocalized constituency of individuals bearing multiple nationalities. It's a new day in Pinoyland! It is futuric!

Two tales. First, Connaught Square, HK circa 1989. Sunday. Downtown is turned into a *palengke* by some 60K Filipinos. I asked a gentleman with a distinct accent: *"Ilonggo ka man, Doy."* He responds: *"Di Nong, Pinoy na ko."* (Bro, are you from Iloilo? Nope. Now a Pinoy.) Many of Noynoy's 15 percent are street-smart worldwise Pinoys. Some even reside on Saipan.

Second, 1980 in London, on my way to a community development training in Africa. OED defines *Filipina* as nanny. Imeldific is horrified. But nannies in Piccadilly Circus declare, "We are a service force to the world, and proud of it!" The uppity Maria Clara aristocrati/cognoscenti are up in arms, the Pinay sisterhood takes the designation in stride. A CEO from GE titles his book *Leadership as Servanthood*, a bestseller.

An African saying at the training: The difference between a *slave* and a *servant* is that the slave waits for the master's command before s/he obeys. The servant decides what the master needs, then acts to meet the need. *Pinoys/Pinays* of the globe are servant leaders exemplified, even before the Age of half-Kenyan Indo-Hawaiian-Chicagoan Obama. Servants on Saipan are often shunned because they serve well fearless and uncowed.

Pinoys at 112 in Uncle Sam's corral, be proud. Serve. And it is OK to be a dual citizen!

Kids should be taught to consume less, save more

By LEWIS W. DIUGUID
(C) 2010, THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Everything parents try to do now to teach their children to save money for the future gets shouted down by the bad economy, credit problems and encouragement at every turn to enjoy now and spend.

It's like trying to teach kids not to smoke when all of their peers and every adult they know is puffing away and couldn't care less about the exorbitant costs in money and illness of using tobacco products. The trend of people not saving for the future is negatively affecting families.

A recent report from the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that one-fourth of U.S. workers have saved less than $1,000 for retirement. Workers are unprepared to maintain their standard of living once they retire.

Consider that baby boomers and their offspring generally exercise less, eat more and suffer a greater rate of obesity than previous generations.

Baby boomers save less on average than our parents did. Generations Y and X are following us with shallower footprints. It looks as if our kids' will have a lower quality of life. They also aren't expected to live as long.

Our kids shouldn't bank on Social Security or Medicare. Our adult kids are paying into each just as baby boomers are, but it is less likely the programs will be around for them just as the entitlements are questionable for the 78 million baby boomers.

Already baby boomers are draining the federal swamp. Social Security is projected to pay out more money this year than it receives in payroll taxes. That wasn't supposed to happen until 2016. Even so, the program will not exhaust its funds until 2037 unless changes are made sooner.

Individual savings and investments may be our kids' only salvation. I opened bank accounts for my daughters and I got them into the habit of putting a few dollars regularly in the bank so they would get used to saving.

The money, I told the girls, would be safe and earn interest. They could watch it grow with each statement.

That worked in the 1980s. Less so in the 1990s, and abysmal interest since 2000 has made liars out of parents like me. Ubiquitous advertising in the media encourage people to spend and not to worry about tomorrow. ATMs and credit cards given to teens make spending easier and more appealing.

An Associated Press-GfK poll found that the average amount owed on credit cards is $3,900, down from $5,600 in the fall. People on average carry about $44,000 in debt from credit cards, mortgages, auto loans and other consumer debt.

Fewer people are saving, and a record number of bankruptcy filings keep occurring. High unemployment adds to the problem. So do health issues.

Personal savings is the only way to feel secure. But first, the trends of non-savings have to be reversed. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, about one-fourth of workers this year said they have $1,000 to $25,000. Another quarter said they had $25,000 to $100,000.

Only 11 percent of the public had saved $100,000 to $250,000, and another 11 percent had squirreled away more than $250,000. A falling number of workers said they were very confident about their financial stability in retirement.

If an emergency arises—and they always do—people with no savings may have to rely on payday loan services, and the cost of doing so is enormous. Saving for the future is a way to keep from going deep under financial water.

Workers would be wise to redouble efforts to save for retirement. Some thought I was crazy in the 1970s, but I never expected Social Security to be around by the time baby boomers need it.

If it is still around, I am sure the age requirement will place it out of reach just when people my age turn 66 in 2021. The same is likely to be the case when my daughters each hits retirement age.

That makes it imperative for them as well as boomers to save for the future. Interest rates won't be an incentive. But saving for old age is.

Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star's Editorial Board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by e-mail at Ldiuguid@kcstar.com.

TRAGEDY

From Page 6

all births are to unmarried women. News about this historic breaching of the 40 percent threshold is as buried as the story of the death of Kwanzaa Diggs. Google "out-of-wedlock births U.S." Most of the stories that pop up will be about last year's reports.

The city councilman in the nation's capital who wants "intensive mentoring" of adolescent and teen-age boys is on to something—but perhaps unknowingly. It's the absence of fathers. In communities where single parenthood is relatively infrequent—and such neighborhoods are vanishing in America—older married men or younger men who are marriage material can fill much of the mentoring gap.

But where will such men come from in cities where large numbers of males refuse to mentor or monitor their own children? Colbert King and others are asking the right questions. The meltdown at the core of nuclear families in the United States has radioactive properties that a hundred concrete buildings could not contain.

Poor Gloucester. His tragedy, like Lear's, was his failure to recognize a loyal child. Our national tragedy is our loss of loyal fathers.

Charles A. Donovan is senior research fellow in the DeVos Center on Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

Letters to the Editor

What now?

So CNMI what is the plan for our power? What will happen in six months? How about one week? Or until the next payment is due. What do we do to prepare or make changes? Or do we just sit and wait for the sky to fall?

Del Benson
Papago, Saipan

'I'm sorry'

Dear people of the Commonwealth: I am writing this letter to admit my mistake and to ask for forgiveness in my marriage scam. I learned my lessons and I know not to do this crime again. It brought shame not only to myself but to my immediate family and friends who have known me since I was small. Because of my mistake, I have to go to jail and I am now trying to complete my probation terms, one of which is doing my community work service and paying a huge fine.

At the moment, I am trying very hard to change and improve my life. I am looking at going back to school to complete my high school study. Once again, I am sorry and I am going to do my best to completely change my life for the better.

Delora Taman Bhuiyan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

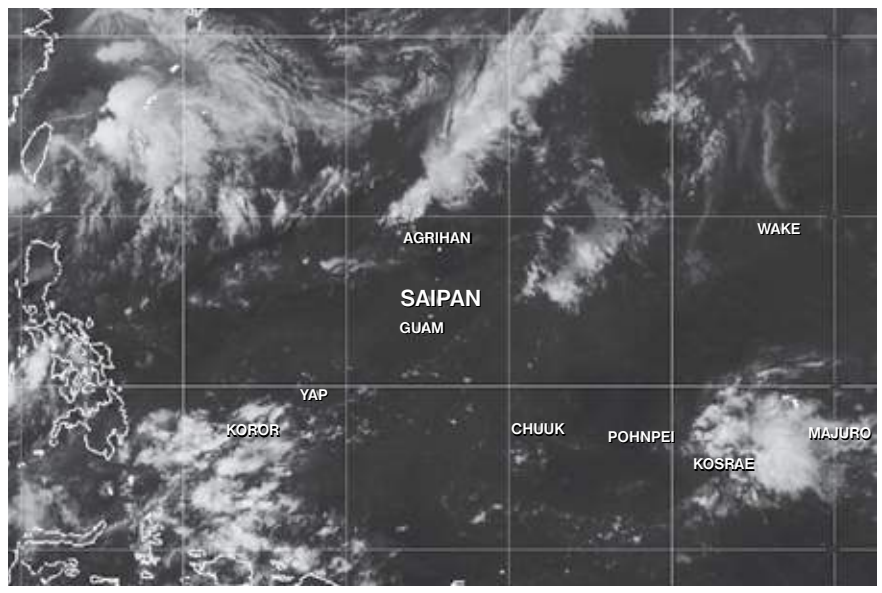
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲60	▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲89	▼67
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼84
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲55	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼69
Paris	Showers	▲74	▼53
Pusan	Showers	▲75	▼66
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼65
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼50
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲75	▼67
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N146E to 21N138E then westward to near 21N132E. Scattered showers are along and up to 50 miles north of the front between 21N132E and 21N138E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 60 miles of a line from 25N148E to 20N143E and well northeast of Saipan within 60 miles of a line from 19N157E to 16N153E. Low-level convergence is also causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau between the equator and 8N from 130E to 139E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area across Kosrae to southwest of Kwajalein between 3N and 9N from 162E to 170E and east of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 5N175E to 6N180 and scattered showers are northeast of Majuro within 50 miles of a line from 9N176E to 9N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
8:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:09 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	7:38 PM
Monday	7:13 AM	8:34 PM
Tuesday	8:17 AM	9:27 PM
Wednesday	9:18 AM	10:14 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 27, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up:
Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road,
Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 12, 2000

No override on budget veto
There will be no override of the governor's veto on the FY 2000 budget. At least that is the position of the House of Representatives following the strong objection by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on the proposed spending package which was approved in May by lawmakers barely four months into the next fiscal year. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said the lower house will not press an override of the veto, citing the concerns raised by the administration on several provisions of the budget bill. The Senate, on the other hand, has yet to decide whether to override, although Sen. Edward U. Maratita, chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, said a decision is forthcoming during a session this week. Mr. Tenorio, in disapproving the legislative proposal, warned of potential deficit spending and layoff of government employees if he signed the bill appropriating the $208 million estimated revenues of the government after three-quarters of that money have been allotted to all departments and agencies.

Lack of consultation irks PDO
Chief Public Defender Masood Karimipour has lamented the failure of the Legislature and the Office of the Governor to consult the Public Defender's Office and avail of their expertise on issues affecting the criminal justice system. Even the Prison Task Force, he said, has not tapped the PDO in drawing up plans for a new prison just to make sure that lawyers would be able to have easy access with their clients when it is finally completed. "What is the use of spending millions of dollars if the most fundamental constitutional principle that apply to corrections will not be observed?" asked Mr. Karimipour.

June 12, 2001

3 firms submit bids for Managaha concession
The Office of Public Land is expected to come up with a decision on the submitted bids for the commercial development of the Commonwealth's premiere tourist attraction, Managaha Island. Public Lands Administrator Bertha C. Leon Guerrero expects a decision from the board of directors on who among the three companies that have submitted bids will be granted the concession to operate the resort. On Tuesday, Marianas Marine Management, Inc., Pacific Development Inc., and Tasi Tours submitted their business proposals to Public Lands.

Expert says CNMI not a US territory
The defense to an illegal gambling case has re-asserted claims that the Northern Marianas is a non-US territory, contrary to a prosecution argument citing the creation of the CNMI as a United States territory through the Covenant. The defense enlisted a former official under the Marianas Political Status Commission to attest to its contention, in response to the US government's opposition to a motion to dismiss charges against suspected illegal gambling operator Qian Wu or "Queenie." MPSC was the group appointed to negotiate the political status of the CNMI. The commission's former Vice Chairman Vicente T. Santos, in a declaration to support the motion to dismiss, said that the Northern Marianas is a Commonwealth and not a territory.

June 12, 2002

Beefing up NMI's capacity to tap grants
The CNMI may be dead last in per capita federal expenditures and grants in the entire U.S. system but the Babauta administration has begun the initial steps needed to change this dismal picture. Beginning next quarter, the administration may soon offer a chance for individuals to take a series of courses on Federal Grants Management at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School in Hawaii, to help build the CNMI's capacity to effectively apply for grants. Senior Policy Advisor Robert J. Schwalbach said he has been in constant contact with the U.S.D.A.'s Graduate School in Hawaii, where they offer this certificate program.

New Tinian casino project to kick off soon
Tinian is likely to see its first 18-hole golf course next year as a group of Korean investors projected the completion of their company's proposed $50-million casino resort project on the island by middle of 2003. Executives of the Tinian Fantasy Land yesterday met with officials of the Tinian Mayor's Office for a briefing on the Commonwealth's recently implemented investments incentive program, which may be extended to the company once it starts with the multi-million-dollar project. Ike Quichocho, senior advisor to Mayor Francisco Borja, disclosed that the Tinian Fantasy Island delegation-a 15-man team-arrived yesterday for the continuation of the round-table discussion about the proposed golf course and casino-resort facility.

Business

Team: Much more oil gushing from well than thought

HOUSTON (AP)—Researchers studying the flow of oil from the blown-out well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico said Thursday that up to twice the amount of oil previously thought may have been spewing into the sea since an oil rig exploded nearly two months ago.

The new figures could mean anywhere from 42 million to more than 100 million gallons of oil have already fouled the fragile waters, affecting people who live, work and play along the coast from Louisiana to Florida—and perhaps beyond.

It is the third—and perhaps not last—time the federal government has had to increase its estimate of how much oil is gushing. Trying to clarify what has been a contentious and confusing issue, federal officials on Thursday gave a wide variety of estimates.

All of the new spill rate estimates are worse than earlier ones—and far more costly for BP, which has seen its stock sink since the April 20 explosion that killed 11 workers and triggered the spill.

The spill—before June 3 when a riser was cut and then a cap put on it—was flowing at daily rate that could possibly have been as high as 2.1 million gallons, twice the highest number the federal government had been saying, according to U.S. Geological Survey Director Marcia McNutt, who is coordinating estimates. But she said possibly more credible numbers are a bit lower.

The estimates are not near complete yet and different scientific teams have come up with different numbers. A new team from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute came in with higher estimates than all the others using multibeam sonar.

The Woods Hole estimate ranged from 1 million gallons a day to 2.1 million gallons. And if the high end of the Woods Hole estimate is true, that means nearly 107 million gallons have spilled since the rig explosion.

Even using other numbers that federal officials and scientists call a more reasonable range would have about 63 million gallons spilling since April 20.

If those 63 million gallons of oil were put in gallon milk jugs, they would line up side by side for nearly 5,500 miles. That's the distance from the spill to London, where BP is headquartered, and then continuing on to Rome.

By comparison, Exxon Valdez, the previous worst U.S. oil spill, was just about 11 million gallons. The worst peacetime oil spill, 1979's Ixtoc 1 in Mexico, was about 140 million gallons over 10 months. The new figures mean Deepwater Horizon is producing an Exxon Valdez size spill every five to 13 days.

With all sorts of estimates for what's flowing from the BP well, some even smaller than the amount collected by BP in its containment cap, McNutt in a telephone press conference said the most credible range at the moment is between 840,000 gallons and 1.68 million gallons a day. Then she added that it was "maybe a little bit more."

Jobless claims, exports fall in sluggish recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—The picture of a steady but still sluggish recovery emerged from reports Thursday that showed fewer people are claiming unemployment aid while U.S. exports are slowing.

The reports echo Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's suggestion this week that the rebound will remain intact despite high unemployment, a fragile housing market and Europe's debt crisis. But it will take time to create enough jobs to bring down the 9.7 percent unemployment rate.

Initial unemployment claims fell by 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 456,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That's the third straight drop. However, claims haven't moved below where they stood in January.

At the same time, the tally of laid-off workers continuing to claim jobless benefits fell by 255,000 to 4.5 million. That's the largest decline in almost a year. It could be because more people are finding work. But it may simply mean that they have exhausted their initial state benefits. A Labor Department analyst said state agencies didn't provide any explanation for the drop.

A weakening in U.S. sales overseas could hurt the job market. The Commerce Department said the U.S. trade deficit rose to the highest level in 16 months as exports fell for the second time in three months. Exports have been a source of strength for U.S. manufacturers.

A bright spot for the recovery are near-record low mortgage rates that fell again this week. Rates on 30-year fixed mortgages dropped to 4.72 percent—the lowest level of the year and barely shy of the record low of 4.71 percent.

Nation

Army: Bodies misidentified, misplaced at Arlington

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Army investigation has found that potentially hundreds of remains at Arlington National Cemetery have been misidentified or misplaced, in a scandal marring the reputation of the nation's pre-eminent burial ground for its honored dead since the Civil War.

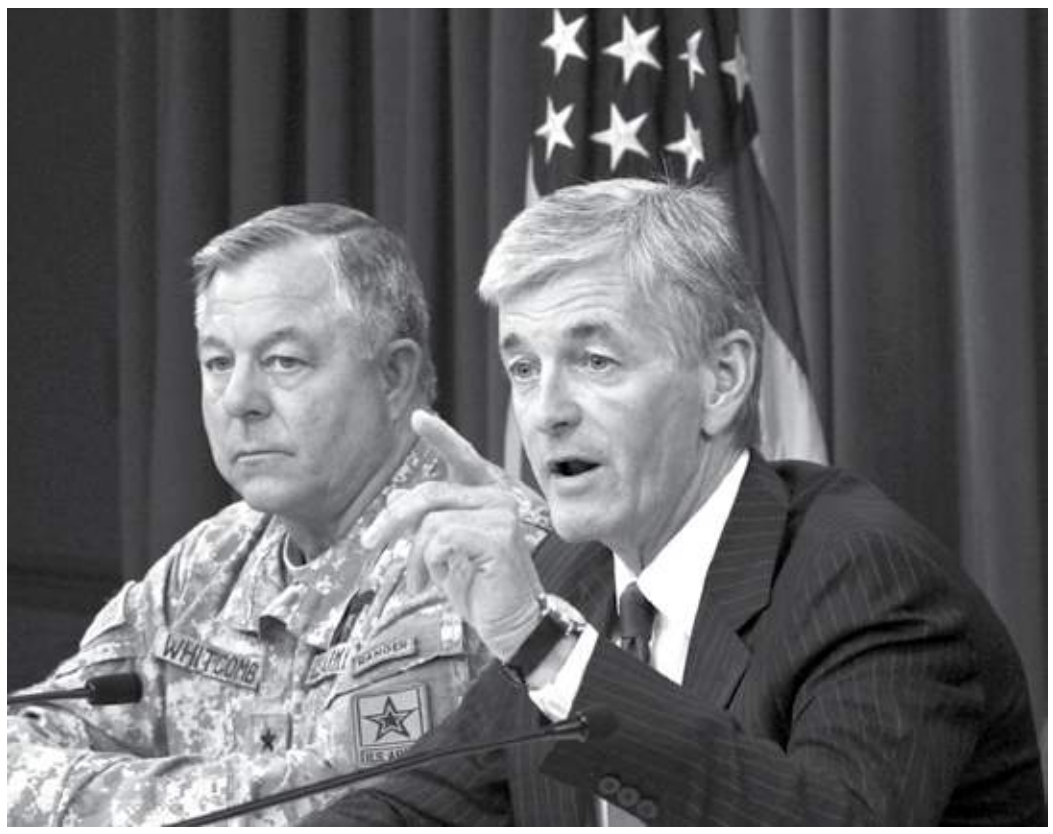
Army Secretary John McHugh announced Thursday that the cemetery's two civilian leaders would be forced to step aside, and he appointed a new chief to conduct a more thorough investigation to examine the graves and sort out the mix-up.

"I deeply apologize to the families of the honored fallen resting in that hallowed ground who may now question the care afforded to their loved ones," McHugh told a Pentagon news conference.

Arlington National Cemetery is considered among the nation's most hallowed burial sites, with more than 300,000 people buried there with military honors. An average of 30 funerals are conducted there every day.

Among those buried at the cemetery are troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well service members from past conflicts dating back to the Civil War.

Famous presidents and their spouses, including members of the Kennedy family, also have been buried there. The cemetery, located across the Potomac River from Washington in northern Virginia, attracts more than 4 million visitors annually.



AP

Army Secretary John McHugh, right, accompanied by Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, gestures during a news conference at the Pentagon, Thursday, June 10, 2010, to discuss an investigation at Arlington National Cemetery. Whitcomb, the Army's inspector general conducted the investigation.

An Army investigation was launched last year after reports of employee misconduct, first reported by the Web site Salon.com.

Led by the service's inspector general, Lt. Gen. Steven Whitcomb, the investigation found lax management of the cemetery, where employees relied on paper records to manage the dozens of burials each week and maintain the thousands of existing gravesites.

Whitcomb said at least 211 remains were identified as potentially mislabeled or misplaced and that there could be more.

"We found nothing that was intentional, criminal intent or intended sloppiness that caused this. ... But of all the things in the world, we see this as a zero defect operation," he told reporters Thursday.

Whitcomb could not say how old the mixed-up remains might be or from what conflict, saying only that the problem had been confined to three areas of the cemetery known as sections 59, 65 and 66.

Whitcomb said he did find two cases of mis-marked graves in section 60, the area for veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. He said those mistakes had been corrected.

Two GOP senators criticize Kagan's work as court clerk

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two senior Republican senators criticized Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan Thursday for memos she wrote as a young law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall, saying the papers suggest she lets politics dictate her legal decisions.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona and Jeff Sessions of Alabama said the writings show that Kagan was highly opinionated and wanted to use the law to achieve specific policy results, rather than deciding legal questions on their merits.

"It indicates a developing lawyer who has a political bent to their legal work—pretty significantly so," said Sessions, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee that will hold Kagan's confirmation hearings.

The memos, Sessions added, "show that her background is heavily in political advocacy ... more than the meat-and-potatoes discipline of serious legal work."

The two senators cited notes Kagan wrote to Marshall in which she argued that the Supreme Court shouldn't take certain cases based on her fear that they would give its conservative majority the chance to scale back abortion and criminal rights, among others.

In one, regarding a dispute over abortions for women jail inmates, she advised Marshall to vote to reject an appeal even though she had reservations about a federal appeals court ruling in favor of the inmates.

"This case is likely to become the vehicle this court uses to create some very bad law on abortions and/or prisoners' rights," Kagan said in an April 1988 memo.

Kyl called the memos "troubling."

Teen sailor found alive and well

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 16-year-old California girl who was feared lost at sea while sailing solo around the world has been found alive and well, adrift in the southern Indian Ocean with rescue boats headed toward her, officials said.

After a tense 20 hours of silence, a Qantas Airbus A330 search plane made contact with Abby Sunderland late Thursday in the south Indian Ocean where her boat was knocked down repeatedly by huge waves and she lost satellite phone contact.

Qantas Airline spokesman Tom Woodward said the teenager was spotted half way between Australia and Africa and the plane crew spoke with her by radio.

"Abby's in an okay condition; the yacht's damaged but it's seaworthy," Woodward told The Associated Press. "She's aware that there are other boats on the way to her location."

Sunderland told searchers she was doing fine with a space heater and at least two weeks worth of food, family spokesman William Bennett said.

Support team member Jeff Casher said the boat had gotten knocked on its side several times and the mast had broken.

The French regional administration on the island of Reunion also confirmed contact, which occurred Friday in that region of the Indian Ocean, and said it had sent three boats in her direction, the first expected to reach her on Saturday.

The communication with Sunderland was the first since satellite phone communications were lost and her emergency beacons began signaling early Thursday.

She had made several broken calls to her family in Thousand Oaks, California, and reported her yacht was being tossed by 30-foot (9-meter) waves.

The 11 observers aboard the plane, which left the western Australian city of Perth early Friday, spoke with her by close-range VHF marine radio, western Australia state police spokesman Senior Sgt. Graham Clifford said, adding that the crew couldn't drop her anything.

OJ lawyer to make high court appeal for new trial

LAS VEGAS (AP)—O.J. Simpson's lawyer says time could be the biggest hurdle he'll face when he asks the Nevada Supreme Court on Friday to overturn the imprisoned former football star's conviction in a September 2007 hotel room heist and grant a new trial.

Simpson

"We only have 15 minutes to make our arguments. It really is daunting," Yale Galanter said Thursday. "But what the public doesn't know is that there are hundreds of pages of briefs that have already been filed."

Simpson and convicted co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart won't be in court when their lawyers tell a trio of justices that Simpson's fame—and his acquittal in the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ron Goldman in Los Angeles—tilted the Las Vegas proceedings in favor of the prosecution.

Simpson, who turns 63 next month, has been working as a gymnasium janitor while serving nine to 33 years at a state prison in the northern Nevada town of Lovelock.

Stewart, 56, heads a music program while serving 7 1/2 to 27 years at High Desert State Prison, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

"This was a referendum on O.J. Simpson's life. This was payback," Galanter said, previewing what he'll tell justices Mark Gibbons, Michael Cherry and Nancy Saitta in Las Vegas. "This was not about what happened here in Nevada."

The same three justices agreed to hear arguments last year before deciding not to free Simpson and Stewart from prison while their appeals were pending.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger said Simpson and Stewart's September 2008 trial was "somewhat contentious" but fair, and their appeals should be denied. Clark County District Judge Jackie Glass "did a wonderful job refereeing" the trial under tough circumstances, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Armed man holds 15-month-old hostage in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A standoff between deputies and an armed man who has barricaded himself inside an apartment with a 15-month-old boy stretched into its second day Thursday, with authorities concerned about the child's welfare. Deputies exchanged gunfire with armed robbery suspect Anthony Alvarez, 25, in the pre-dawn hours, sheriff's Sgt. Tim Curran said. They reported taking a single shot at the man and missing later in the morning. Around 4:30 p.m., Alvarez fired one shot during a crew shift, suggesting the standoff could continue into the evening. The bullet struck an armored police truck. No law enforcement personnel were injured. Alvarez has been in contact with his mother and told her he was wounded in the arm by a bullet and sustained a head wound during the standoff, Curran said. No other details about his injuries were known.

Trapped Conn. man tried cutting off his own arm

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Jonathan Metz had been trapped for two days in his basement with his left arm stuck in a broken furnace. Smelling rotting flesh, he decided that amputation was his only hope. So the 31-year-old fashioned a tourniquet near his shoulder and began cutting. He made it almost all the way through, but wasn't able to free himself. He was rescued Wednesday after three days in his West Hartford basement when worried friends called police, and firefighters cut the furnace apart. Doctors gave the account of Metz's harrowing experience at a news conference Thursday. They said the attempted self-amputation probably saved his life, preventing the infection in his gangrenous arm from spreading to the rest of his body.

Los Angeles police pursuit ends in deadly crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles police pursuit has ended in a deadly crash, with the suspects' car hitting and killing a 6-year-old girl. Officer April Harding says police were responding to a report of a man with a gun when the pursuit began Thursday night. Harding says the suspects' car lost control in a residential area of Lakeview Terrace and struck the girl, pinning her against a retaining wall. She died at a hospital. Police say two passengers were taken into custody at the scene. The driver of the car fled on foot and remains at large.

Asia

Japan PM warns of Greece-like debt crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's new prime minister warned Friday that his country could face a financial mess like that of Greece if it did not deal urgently with its swelling national debt.

Naoto Kan, speaking in his first address to Parliament after taking office Tuesday, said Japan, the world's second-largest economy, cannot continue to let government debt swell while state finances are under pressure from an aging and declining population.

"It is difficult to sustain a policy that relies too heavily on issuing debt. As we have seen with the financial confusion in the European community stemming from Greece, our finances could collapse if trust in national bonds is lost and growing national debt is left alone," he said.

Japan has the largest public debt among industrialized nations at 218.6 percent of its gross domestic product in 2009, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Kan, who became Japan's sixth prime minister in four years after a short stint as finance minister, promised his government would work closely with the Bank of Japan to avoid an increase in deflation and would focus on developing a "strong and comprehensive" policy.

Kan has said he will also consider raising taxes, an issue he said previous governments had been too timid to face. A social progressive and a fiscal hawk, Kan said he would announce further details of his economic growth plan later this month.

But he said he aims to have the economy grow by more than 2 percent annually by fiscal 2020.

AP

Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan delivers his policy speech at Parliament in Tokyo Friday, June 11, 2010.

China rebuffs US criticism on NKorea

BEIJING (AP)—China said Thursday it has taken a "fair and responsible" attitude in dealing with North Korea's alleged attack on a South Korean warship, batting aside criticism by a top U.S. military official that Beijing hasn't done enough.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said China's goal has been "to safeguard peace and stability" on the Korean peninsula.

"All that we have done is based on this position, so we hope that all parties can understand that and cooperate with China to properly deal with this issue," he told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Qin was speaking a day after Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he was disappointed by the international community's "tepid" response to the North Korean attack in March on a South Korean warship, singling out China for not doing more.

Mullen made his comments in Washington D.C. at a dinner hosted by the Asia Society.

South Korea has asked the U.N. Security Council to punish North Korea after an international investigation found that a North Korean torpedo sank a South Korean navy ship in March, killing 46 sailors. Pyongyang has denied responsibility and says any punishment will trigger war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan TV: Chen's sentence cut to 20 years

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's High Court rejected former President Chen Shui-bian's appeal of his conviction on graft charges Friday, but cut his life sentence to 20 years, TV stations reported. All of Taiwan's seven cable stations also said that former first lady Wu Shu-chen's conviction on graft charges was upheld, but that her own life sentence was cut to 14 years. The High Court was meeting in closed session to read out the verdict on the Chen and Wu cases, so it was impossible to immediately confirm the TV reports. Chen, 59, was found guilty in September 2009 by the Taipei District Court of embezzling $3.15 million from a special presidential fund, receiving bribes worth at least $9 million, and laundering some of the money through Swiss bank accounts. He has been incarcerated in a suburban Taipei jail for the past 17 months. Following Friday's decision, Chen has the right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

US official: Fair Myanmar vote a must for refugees

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar refugees cannot be expected to return home if the upcoming election in the military-ruled country is not fair, a senior U.S. State Department official said Thursday. Eric Schwartz said the junta's repression of political opponents and restrictions on the electoral process so far suggest Myanmar's election will lack international legitimacy. That would mean little change in political conditions and would "not alter the need of Burmese who fear persecution to have access to protection outside of Burma," he said, referring to Myanmar by its former name.

Malaysian wins $1M for wrongful 3-year detention

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian businessmen who was held without trial for three years under a harsh security law won 3.3 million ringgit ($1 million) in damages from the government Thursday in a landmark court verdict, his lawyer said. High Court Judge Mohamad Hishamuddin Mohamad Yunus ruled that Badrul Zaman P.S.Mohamed's detention under the Internal Security Act in 1991 was wrongful and illegal, said lawyer M.Manoharan. Badrul, 58, was arrested in 1991 for allegedly issuing fake Malaysian passports to illegal Sri Lankan immigrants seeking to use Malaysia as a transit point to migrate to Europe, he said. Badrul was never charged and was freed in 1994 after challenging the validity of his detention in court.

World

Pope defends celibacy for priests at Vatican rally

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI strongly defended celibacy for priests as a sign of faith in an increasingly secular world Thursday, insisting on a church tradition that has increasingy come under scrutiny amid the clerical sex abuse scandal.

Benedict didn't directly mention the crisis that has rocked the Catholic Church for months in his comments to some 15,000 priests who massed in St. Peter's Square. But in an apparent reference to the crisis, Benedict spoke about "secondary scandals" that showed "our own insufficiencies and sins."

Benedict's comments came during an evening vigil service to mark the end of the Vatican's year of the priest—a year that has been marred by revelations of hundreds of new cases of clerical abuse, cover-up and Vatican inaction to root out pedophile priests.

There had been speculation that Benedict might again refer to the scandal during the priestly gathering, following his recent comments en route to Portugal during which he acknowledged that it was born of the "sin within the church" and not from outside elements. Previously, Vatican officials, Vatican publications and cardinals had blamed the scandal on the media, the Masons and anti-Catholic lobbies, among others.

But Benedict didn't directly address it Thursday night. He is due to celebrate a final Mass on Friday before the three-day priest rally comes to a close.

Police: Dutchman says he knows Holloway location

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Dutch murder suspect Joran van der Sloot told police investigators that he knows the location of the body of missing U.S. teen Natalee Holloway, the chief of Peru's criminal police said.

"He let slip that he knew the place where this person was buried," Gen. Cesar Guardia told The Associated Press.

Guardia said, however, that the 22-year-old Dutchman told investigators "he would only testify (on the matter) before Aruba authorities."

Van der Sloot

Guardia said that he didn't know how seriously to take Van der Sloot's statement given his history of dubious statements about the 2005 disappearance in Aruba of the Alabama teen.

Van der Sloot remains the lone suspect in the case, which came up in front of Peruvian police as the Dutchman confessed to killing Stephany Flores, a 21-year-old woman from Lima, Guardia told the AP.

Sheathed in a bulletproof vest, Van der Sloot was moved Thursday across downtown Lima to a cell at the prosecutor's office as officials prepared to file charges in the May 30 killing of Flores, who police say he met playing poker at a casino three days earlier.

Flores was killed five years to the day after Holloway disappeared and prosecutors have until Saturday to file charges in the case.

Van der Sloot's newly hired attorney asked a judge Thursday to declare his client's confession void on the grounds he made it in the presence of a defense lawyer appointed by police.

The attorney, Maximo Altez, could not be reached directly for comment. A person answering his cell phone identified himself as the lawyer's secretary and said Altez was unavailable. Later calls went unanswered.

Guardia dismissed the defense claim, calling the confession wholly admissible in court. In addition to the government-appointed defense attorney, he said, a translator assigned by the Dutch Embassy was present at Monday's confession.

"The incriminatory elements were so powerful that he had to confess," Guardia said, adding that the evidence included blood stains found on Van der Sloot's clothing.

Iran slams US after China about-face on sanctions

SHANGHAI (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused the United States of hypocrisy during a visit to the World Expo in Shanghai on Friday, two days after host China yielded to international pressure to back new nuclear sanctions against Tehran.

"How can they have the right to impose pressure on other countries who are willing to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes?" Ahmadinejad said while touring the Iranian pavilion at the World Expo. He said the U.S. was the only country to use a nuclear weapon against another.

"How can they stop Iran's peaceful nuclear program only with the reason that it 'may be' used for manufacturing nuclear weapons?" he told reporters.

Ahmadinejad was not scheduled to meet Chinese leaders while in China. He also skipped Thursday's summit in Uzbekistan of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which was attended by Chinese President Hu Jintao.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico condemns Border Patrol shooting of teen

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Mexico condemned the shooting of a 15-year-old boy by a U.S. Border Patrol agent Thursday through diplomatic correspondence and an angry phone call to the Homeland Security secretary. Some Mexican politicians called for the agent's extradition to face Mexican justice. Anger over Monday's shooting across a muddy riverbed on the international border was fueled by a cell-phone video that showed key moments in the shooting, as debate began over which country has jurisdiction in the case. A still-unidentified Border Patrol agent trying to arrest illegal immigrants running into the United States fired his weapon from the U.S. side into Mexico, killing 15-year-old Sergio Adrian Hernandez Huereka while people on the Mexican side threw rocks at the Border Patrol agents on the scene.

Cavernous Guatemala sinkhole prompts evacuations

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A massive sinkhole that gulped down a clothing factory and an entire intersection in Guatemala's capital is mystifying geologists who have yet to figure out what caused it. "It's the million-dollar question," said David Monterroso, a geophysical engineer with the National Disaster Management Agency. Nearly 100 feet (30 meters) deep and 66 feet (20 meters) wide, the hole formed during a deadly tropical storm in late May. Officials have not confirmed any fatalities, though neighbors say they believe a security guard using a public phone was sucked in and died. One popular theory that has played widely in Guatemalan media is that flow from broken sewage ducts ate away at the earth until the ground above caved in. Another sinkhole that swallowed several homes and killed three people in the same area in 2007 was blamed on rain and an underground sewage leak.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 12, 2010

All set for Sunday's Pistang Pinoy 2010

» As Filipinos in the CNMI mark RP's 112th Independence Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Filipino community on Saipan commemorates today the 112th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence.

On June 12, 1898, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed the independence of Filipinos and the country from Spain in Kawit, Cavite.

The theme of this year's Independence Day celebration is "Kalayaan: Tagumpay ng Bayan."

The occasion will be marked by the raising of the flag organized by The Free and Accepted Masons of Emon Lodge No. 179 at 9am today at Coral Ocean Point.

Another flag raising ceremony and Independence Day program hosted by the Philippine Consul General's office is scheduled at 7:30am tomorrow at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds.

For his first celebration of Philippine Independence Day on Saipan, Consul General Medardo Macaraig wanted it to be "simple, austere yet meaningful."

Macaraig said an ostentatious celebration would not be appropriate since both the Philippines and the CNMI are in not-so-good economic times.

But it is still important to celebrate because June 12 is an important milestone in Filipino history, he emphasized.

Macaraig added that the occasion is a cause for many celebrations for Filipinos.

He said that the recently concluded national elections went well. The absentee voting turnout in the CNMI placed second in the U.S. and tenth worldwide, a demonstration of the sense of patriotism and involvement of Filipinos here in the CNMI.

Overcoming adversities brought by typhoon *Pepeng* and *Ondoy* are also reasons for Filipinos to be grateful, he said, while the death of a pillar of Philippine democracy, Corazon Aquino, is a time for reflection.

During Sunday's program, messages from incumbent Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Foreign Affairs secretary, and other dignitaries will be read.

Macaraig added that the highlight of the event will be the food that will be served, prepared by the students and graduates of the culinary arts and baking classes from the livelihood courses offered at the consulate.

Macaraig said he wants to prove that these livelihood courses can go beyond the classroom.

After the Consulate-sponsored celebration, Filipinos and other community members can proceed to the Civic Center in Susupe to join the annual Pistang Pinoy event organized by the United Filipino Organization.

UFO president Olive Yana said that everything is in order for tomorrow's event, which will feature production numbers from various Filipino organizations, a singing contest, and a 3-on-3 basketball game.

June is NMI-RP Friendship Month

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed yesterday a proclamation designating June as Northern Mariana Islands – Philippines Friendship Month.

The proclamation signing was witnessed by Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig and representatives of the Philippine Labor Office, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and various Filipino organizations in the community.

Fitial acknowledged the semblance between the CNMI and the Philippines, with its cultural diversity, historical background, and religious tenets.

"The peoples of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Republic of the Philippines share the bonds of Christian faith, friendship and understanding brought about by centuries of common Spanish heritage, customs, traditions and values," he said.

The proclamation also recognized the vital role played by thousands of Filipino workers on the islands who, over the years, have made significant economic and cultural contributions in the Commonwealth and demonstrated active involvement in the community.

United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana, who was present during the proclamation signing, described the occasion as "a strengthening of ties" between the CNMI government and the Filipino workers on island.

"A good relationship with the government is essential to our existence here since we are contract workers," Yana said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig are joined at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill by representatives of the Philippine Labor Office, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and various Filipino organizations in the community during yesterday's proclamation signing that designated the month of June as Northern Mariana Islands – Philippines Friendship Month.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The NMI-Philippines proclamation signing coincides with the celebration the 112th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence today, June 12.

Hillary Clinton sends Independence Day greetings to RP

US State Secretary Hillary Clinton congratulated Filipinos on Friday on the 112th anniversary of their country's independence and praised last month's election as a testament to the strength of Philippine democracy.

Filipino revolutionaries declared independence from Spain on June 12, 1898.

On Wednesday, the Philippine Congress proclaimed opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino III as the country's 15th president, formalizing the landslide win of the son of revered democracy icons—Benigno Aquino Jr. and former President Corazon Aquino—in the country's first national automated elections.

"This is a momentous time for your country, and the United States congratulates you on your successful election last month—a testament to the strength of your democracy and a positive example for the world," she said in a statement.

Clinton said Americans and Filipinos are deeply connected by friendship, family, culture and the contributions of 4 million Americans of Filipino ancestry living in the U.S. and 150,000 Americans in the Philippines.

The two nations' long history of cooperation—fighting side by side during World War II—continues today in promoting peace and development, combating extremism and helping victims of natural disasters, she added. ***(AP)***

Editorial

Philippine Independence Day 112th Anniversary

June 12, 1898, is a glorious date in the history of the Filipino people. On this day, President Emilio F. Aguinaldo proclaimed the freedom of the Filipino people. The Philippine national flag was hoisted and the country's national anthem was played.

President Aguinaldo's proclamation of Philippine Independence not only heralded the birth of a new nation. It also brought glad tidings to the colonial subjects of Asia. It inspired the colonial subjects to struggle to be free, too.

June 12, 1898, was the capstone of the hundreds of armed uprisings launched by the Filipino people from 1571 to 1896 to recover their right to be free. "I will never bow my head before any foreign invader," Rajah Kalipulaku of Mactan declared in 1521.

"Freedom or Death!" cried Andres C. Bonifacio when he launched the Philippine Revolution on August 24, 1896. "The natives of the Philippines," wrote the friar-chronicler Pedro Murillo Velarde, "were fierce defenders of freedom and enemies to subjection." "Never did the Filipino people give up their right to be free," declared World War II hero Benito Soliven.

The annals of the Filipino people are replete with names of men and women who readily gave up their lives for the sake of freedom.

Tariq Soliman, Magat Salamat, Magalat, Malong, Maniago, Magsanop, Diego and Gabriela Silang, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Graciano Lopez Jaena, Andres C. Bonifacio, Dr. Jose P. Rizal and Many others nourished Philippine freedom with their blood and sacrifices.

We yearly celebrate Philippine Independence Day to bring to the awareness of our people that freedom is a most precious right.

Only those who fight for their freedom deserve to be free.

Freedom is the meaning of June 12, 1898.

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EXCHANGE RATES

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Ernie David and the art of skinless leaf painting

How one Filipino artist's passion for painting led him to create a new art form

By CLARISSA DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When Irineo "Ernie" David arrived on Saipan four years ago, he brought with him his passion for drawing and painting.

Born in the city of San Fernando in the Philippines, David moved to Angeles City where he started an arts and crafts store that catered mainly to foreigners that work or visit the military base.

At that time, David already got into the art of leaf painting but never really had the chance to work on this particular technique because of his business.

David, who was initially hired to work on Saipan as an auto mechanic, wanted to continue doing art during his leisure time but he wanted to veer away from the usual canvases. "*Nagisip ako ng ibang pamamaraan kaya naisip ko nga yan* [skinless leaf painting] *kaya ginawa ko ng pinaka*-canvas *ang dahon* [I thought of other ways and that's how I got the idea of using leaves as canvases]*,"* he said.

David uses the leaves of sakura trees on which to create his work of art.

How does an ordinary leaf turn into a canvas? "*Inaalis ko yung pinakabalat ng dahon bago ko i*-bleach. That's the time *na magstart na ko mag-drawing* [I remove the skin of the leaf first before I bleach it. That's when I can start drawing.] It takes less than two months before you reach that time when you have to remove the skin of the leaves," David explained.

David said that once a year he would he soak about 200-300 sakura leaves in a mixture of water and a small amount of sodium chloride. These leaves would be enough for him to make a number of artworks.

When the time comes when the skin of the leaves can be removed, David gently uses a soft brush to peel away the skin. "Skeleton *ng dahon ang matitira. Ingatan lang [na huwag] masira* [What's left is the leaf's skeleton. Just make sure it doesn't get torn]*,"* he said.

Once the leaves are bleached, David would start to sketch on his unique canvas, using water-based paint.

David's artworks were on display at the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival held last April 23-25 at the Civic Center in Susupe. This was the second time for David to put up a booth at the biggest annual arts festival in Micronesia.

David discloses that with the economic downturn, he can't really sell his art pieces for the price that he wants, just so more people will buy his work. "*Totoong mahirap na ngayon dito* [It really is difficult now]*,"* he added.

David's paintings vary in size and in price. He normally charges $55 for a 10"x10" but sold it for $50 at the festival. Prices for bigger paintings range from $150 to $650. A 16"x32" replica of Leonardo da Vinci's famous "Last Supper" was on display at the booth and costs $950.

Considering his choice of canvas, one might easily think that his art is economical and cost-effective. David disagrees. *"Mas mahal pa nga kung tutuusin kasi matagal ang* processing. *Yung* time *na ini*-spend *mo, mas mahal kung tutuusin kesa sa mga* common materials *na nabibili lang, anytime makakabili ka.* Unlike that one, it takes time *bago mo makuha yung pinaka-skeleton niya* [It's even more expensive because of the length of time it takes to process the materials]*,"* he clarifies.

Only during occasions such as the Flame Tree Arts Festival does David sell a lot. Thanks to his booth, David sold 18 of his artworks, including one charcoal painting.

David also receives orders and commissioning of designs, like the "Prodigal Son" painting he did for Fr. Ryan Jimenez and a motorboat for one Hyatt hotel guest.

David dreams of having his own gallery where he can display all his works. In the meantime, some of his 10"x10" artworks

See ERNIE on Page 17

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A child checks out Ernie David's artworks on display at the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival, held last April 23-25 at the Civic Center in Susupe.

IMMIGRATION LAW

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Mabuhay!!!

Happy Independence Day!

ASK DR. NOET

'Help! My financial plan failed me'

By DR. JOHNNY NOET RAVALO
INQUIRER.NET

Question: I followed the conventional advice and drew up a plan for my finances years ago. I have stuck to the plan well enough but I do not feel better off today because whatever savings we have doesn't seem enough to beat the higher food prices, higher tuition expenses, higher gas prices etc. etc. In fact, my honest feeling is that the saving habit has only made me forego a lot of things that my family could have enjoyed instead. That happiness would have been at least tangible but the reward of saving seems just a nice concept right now. What am I doing wrong?—Patricia

Answer: Patricia, I hope that your financial plan was customized to your needs rather than some one-size-fits-all approach. Making sure personal circumstances are reflected in your financial plan makes the plan a livable strategy rather than a painful sacrifice of do's and dont's.

Remember that a financial plan is just a starting point. It helps in putting you in the proper mindset, but any plan cannot be effective if it is held completely insulated from changing conditions. Could it be that you feel let down by your financial plan because the details have not been updated to adapt to the changes with your family needs and in the financial market?

Our financial plans are much like our homes. Even though we try to weather-proof it, repairs come up every year. We may be lucky enough not to deal with a leak, a clog, a paint chip or a broken window hinge this year, but sooner or later changes are needed.

We can, of course, choose to do nothing. The problem is that a home will depreciate with unresolved repairs creating new and bigger problems. Doing nothing hurts us because we are choosing to miss out on opportunities. The longer we choose to do nothing and the more drastic the changes are, the more our financial plan becomes ill suited for our needs.

What opportunities are missed and how do these hurt us?

Until recently, global interest rates were generally low and were getting lower. A prudent financial adviser will suggest to his client that:

[a] he needs to set aside more periodically to be able to invest more or

[b] invest in higher-yield but higher-risk instruments or

[c] strongly consider fixed-income instruments for their capital gain upside or

[d] downsize the amount he wants to achieve upon retirement or

[e] some combination of all of the above.

By opting to do nothing, our financial plans will surely fall short of our targets because we will continue to reinvest at continually lower rates.

Inflation is another plan-altering factor, but it is a silent assassin. Officially, inflation numbers are reported after-the-fact (how the general price level moved over the past 12 months) but we live through the price increases contemporaneously.

This difference between "yesterday" (what is reported) and "today" (what we pay for) brings up another issue with our financial plans because interest rates are all about "tomorrow" (a promised reward in the future). This difference in timing is material to our financial plans because it alters the real value of our financial worth and our purchasing power.

We need to worry about matching yields with future inflation. Only when our effective investment yield is higher than inflation—correctly timed—are we moving ahead.

Already, the latest annual inflation is 8.3 percent, which means that if we did not invest in a 20-year fixed income bond in late March or early April last year, inflation just eroded the value of our financial returns over the past 12 months. Going for a 20-year bond will be difficult for most of us (because of the liquidity drain) but the hardest part of this is the fact that 12 months ago no one was talking about the possibility of an 8.0 percent inflation one year hence: oil was still well below $100 per barrel and there was no rice and food price spike envisioned back then.

Unfortunately, there is no quick-financial-fix to deal with higher inflation particularly those that are borne out of spikes in key commodities. We just have to monitor and re-balance our portfolios to better mitigate the erosion of inflation. By adapting our financial plan, surely we can still lose value. The difference is that doing nothing guarantees that loss while doing something raises that possibility.

Which brings me to this point: do talk to advisers who do these things professionally. Our saving and our future are too valuable to take a chance on hit-or-miss strategies.

Have a question for Dr. Noet? Email personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

It's waaaaaaaar over Derek Ramsay

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

MANILA, Philippines—Cat fight! Seems one is brewing between Angelica Panganiban and "Magkaribal" star Gretchen Barretto. Here's the timeline:

■ June 2—On "SNN," Gretchen told co-star Derek Ramsay, who is set to leave with girlfriend Angelica for a monthlong vacation in South Africa: "Hihintayin ko na lang ang mga pictures mo—solo pictures. Gusto ko ikaw lang, walang iba."

■ June 3—Angelica, in her Twitter account (@IamAngelicaP), said, to no one in particular: "Nakakaawa ka. Mukang 'di ka masaya … Single ka, teh?"

■ June 5— On "E Live," a visibly irked Angelica said again, "Single ka? Kasi ako… may boyfriend…girlfriend ako ni Derek. Nasa mga tao na 'yon kung sino sa tingin nila ang gusto kong paringgan. Huwag sana akong idamay sa promotion [of "Magkaribal"]. Kung gusto niyang mag-promote, mag-promote siyang mag-isa."

■ June 6—On "The Buzz," Gretchen replied, "Joke lang namin ni Derek 'yon …Ako si Victoria (her character in "Magkaribal"). Suot ko ang pag-ibig. Hindi susuko at lalaban magpakailanman. You want war? I'll give you war. I'll be there in my red stilettos."

Abangan.

Dubious dough

Handsome Hunks are having a field day and rolling in dough provided by Gay Benefactor.

The HHs—some of the country's top athletes and models—should be cautious, though, because the source of GB's wealth is purportedly dubious.

GB, an erstwhile provinciano, was allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade.

Mystery of designer duds

Co-workers are wondering why TV Reporter suddenly underwent a fashion makeover. TR used to be painfully baduy. Now, he's sporting designer duds—courtesy of Gay Politico, says a spy.

According to another mole, GP and TR once had a drinking session. GP drinks like a fish, though and, unable to cope, TR soon passed out.

Did GP have his way with the unconscious? Thus, the branded clothes as compensation?

Panganiban

Ramsay

Barretto

Bad and good customers

The staff of a restaurant disclosed who among their celebrity clients are bad and good customers.

Female Host allegedly behaves like royalty even though, as a relative of her Rich Husband once quipped, she has "zero pedigree."

FH's Male Counterpart is just as nightmarish for his arrogant ways. Another dreaded diner is Controversial Star who lives up to her bad rep as a selfish brat.

The servers' favorites, though, are Popular Star and Action Prince—because they're huge tippers.

Curse of reality show

Male graduates of a certain reality show seem to be hounded by all sorts of bad luck.

Cute Hunk's career was effectively snuffed out after a major scandal hit the fan.

Handsome Stud has allegedly turned to the flesh trade because of his addiction to drugs and gambling. Hunky Guy is similarly hooked on gambling and his career has gone down the drain.

DoJ clears Revillame in the 2006 Wowowee stampede

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Justice has affirmed its decision absolving former TV variety show host Wilfredo "Willie" Revillame of any criminal liability in a stampede that killed 71 people four years ago.

In a resolution issued Thursday, Justice Secretary Alberto Agra said he saw no reason to reverse the findings of his predecessor, former justice secretary Raul Gonzalez, clearing Revillame in the case of reckless imprudence resulting to multiple homicide and serious physical injuries.

"After a careful examination of the motion and the records of this case, we find no cogent reason to alter or modify, much less reverse our findings," Agra said in his order.

About 30,000 people were gathered outside the PhilSports Stadium, also known as Ultra, waiting to participate in the first anniversary episode of ABS-CBN variety show Wowowee on February 4, 2006 when the accident occurred. About 400 people were also injured.

On August 22, 2007, the DoJ threw out the complaint against Revillame.

In his resolution, Gonzalez said that Revillame could not be held liable for the stampede just because he invited televiewers to attend the show's anniversary special.

Diether: I know what it's like to be poor

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"I know what it's like to be a student so poor, you can't even buy a decent pencil," said Diether Ocampo, drama actor and founder of KIDS Foundation.

Diether said KIDS (Kabataang Inyong Dapat Suportahan) is set to distribute school supplies to elementary school pupils in Cavite, Laguna, Bukidnon and other isolated areas.

Very motivated

"I remember biting the end of a pencil just to get more of the eraser. So I can relate to these kids. And now that I have the capability, I am very motivated to help as many schoolchildren in need as possible," Diet told Inquirer Entertainment on Saturday.

KIDS received P200,000 worth of school supplies from Star Paper Corp., local distributor of Mongol pencils and crayons, on Saturday during a day-long children's party at the TriNoma Mall in Quezon City. Also present for the event were children of the Gawad Kalinga Foundation.

"You may say I'm paying it forward," the actor said. "Our supporters have also been very generous. I'm not the only one helping here. I get help from friends in show biz and other sectors. But it never seems enough."

112th Philippine Independence Day
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Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Noynoy's choices

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It has been some time, so the rules of post-election Cabinet-naming may be buried in obscurity, but surely we can still remember the basic principle: The president-elect chooses those who will help him fulfill his mandate. The basic principle helps us make sense of the flood of unsolicited advice surging toward Times Street.

Appointing a politician or a businessman with a dubious track record, or indeed a reputation for corruption, should be unthinkable; the main plank of the Aquino platform is the fight against corruption. That would eliminate from consideration all but a handful of Arroyo Cabinet members, or many of the congressmen retiring from the House of Representatives in three weeks' time, or some of those campaign donors whose names have been floated.

Appointing someone coming from President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III's circles of trust, on the other hand, is most thinkable. Indeed, if the politics of Cabinet-naming were to mirror the legal tradition that each member of the Cabinet is an "alter ego" of the president's, then we should fully expect that Aquino will appoint people he personally knows.

To be sure, a screening committee has already been set up, with different groups in the Aquino presidential campaign represented in it. This will considerably widen his circles of trust, and will become even more necessary when the task shifts to recommending appointees to sub-Cabinet or agency-level positions. But the basic principle holds constant: An election victory, especially an unassailable landslide, gives the new president the opportunity to name any person to his Cabinet, if he believes that appointee will help turn electoral mandate into political programs.

We need this reminder, because the first-term senator from Tarlac is already being criticized for allegedly using Cabinet positions to pay back political debts. An angry statement from the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya is only the most obvious example, but there are many others.

The other day, Pamalakaya national chairman Fernando Hicap fired a broadside. "Mr. Aquino is playing the game of big business with the highly questionable entry of [Makati Business Club] executive director Alberto Lim into this new administration. This is unfair and totally inimical to public interest." The occasion was a radio interview, in which Lim said he had been offered a post in the Aquino administration. He didn't specify which, and from its statement Pamalakaya did not know either. But that did not stop Hicap from damning all MBC members. Is he saying that all businessmen, or those who represent "the game of big business," have no role to play in the Aquino administration or, worse, cannot be said to articulate the public interest? This is an economically deterministic view, and a historically discredited one, that runs counter to the political pluralism that Filipino voters have time and again embraced.

Besides, it is a view that was not reflected at all in Aquino's campaign platform. Others may have some things to say about that, but the crucial post-election question is: Shouldn't the winning candidate be given the space to implement his platform? It is safe to assume that Hicap did not vote for Aquino. Should he now dictate how Aquino should form his government to meet his mandate?

Hicap also unburdened himself of the following: "It is payback time for Mr. Aquino and it is happening this early with close associates dividing the spoils among themselves," he said, again referring to MBC's Lim. The assumption behind this statement runs counter to the basic principle of post-election Cabinet-naming: The new president must appoint people he personally knows and has confidence in, to serve as his alter egos.

Hicap's analysis of Aquino's Cabinet-in-the-making follows conventional wisdom in naming "favorite blocs" such as Kamag-anak Inc. and the so-called Hyatt 10. We have it on Aquino's own say-so that he will not appoint any relatives to government positions; as he rather testily pointed out in his post-proclamation press conference, the Constitution bars nepotism. But why shouldn't the new president appoint capable members of Hyatt 10, when they supported him during the campaign and share his political vision of a corruption-free, progressive polity?

An undisputed election victory is another way of saying: Cut him some slack.

Can RP go beyond seeing OFWs mitigating economy's shortfalls?

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

The decade that opened the new millennium may be remembered as the decade for a sector whose acronym—OFW (for overseas Filipino workers)—is a Southeast Asian country's trump card, or flagship, for economic development.

Five years before the turn of the millennium, in 1995, the country wallowed in despair given the emotional and national stress the execution of Singapore-based domestic worker Flor Contemplacion brought. A new law on migrant workers, Republic Act 8042, was formulated, of which its 15th year is celebrated just recently, June 7.

OFWs then were largely known as the abused, vulnerable, and distressed compatriots. Their numbers then, over four million, were not enough to create a windfall of public consciousness. From the time then President Fidel Ramos declared a national pursuit for "NIChood" (NIC means newly-industrialized country), and the country was hit by the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Filipinos abroad did a Superman to save a flagging economy.

But come the ascendancy into power of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and the global trend where billion-dollar remittances from over-200 million migrants worldwide created a global stir, the landscape changed. Annually there are new record-highs for deployed migrant workers and billion-dollar remittances to the Philippines. Rising also is the abused, vulnerable, and distressed compatriots and the numbers (while small compared to the annual deployment of migrant workers).

Transition

The decade that's just passed will be known for many things. Outgoing President Arroyo and her officials at the government agencies handling overseas migration have put premium on the role of overseas Filipinos for development. The government tried its best to address the daily issues facing distressed migrant workers, as well as instituted controls to avoid further despairing situations facing overseas migrants. Even the efforts to save former Iraq truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, in exchange for the withdrawal of a small military contingent aligned with the United States, was worth the price of the country's relations with the US.

New structures and policies were also set up and formed to address the socio-economic needs of migrant workers, such as the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO). Given also the popularity of remittances, and rising demand for private sector participation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas instituted a set of policies to regulate the remittance market, allow new remittance service providers (including telecom companies) to come in, and encourage Filipinos abroad to handle their money better and save and invest in the Philippines.

The foreign affairs department also had its own paradigm shift, even if the response was late given that RA 8042 (or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act) was enacted in 1995. In 2004, upon winning a national election, President Arroyo ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to include overseas Filipinos as among the pillars of Philippine foreign policy. Thus, all of the country's 80-plus embassies and consulates abroad are tasked to include serving domestic workers, caregivers, construction workers, undocumented or irregular migrants, among others.

Having a Philippine government that does all these programs and services to Filipinos abroad is something other governments do not have, says former Labor chief and Development Bank of the Philippines chair Patricia Sto. Tomas. "It makes sense to serve overseas Filipinos."

But it doesn't mean that the country is efficient in handling the migration phenomenon. As observed, while the government is trying its best to serve and protect Filipino citizens wherever they may be, the numbers and the global dispersion of Filipinos—over 8.1 million scattered in over 220 countries, says latest estimates from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas—may be too much for resources-strapped government agencies to handle. Some even observe that the interventions to distressed migrants are reactive. For example, while many civil society organizations have lobbied in the past to institutionalize a center and a holistic program on reintegration of returning OFWs, it took a Lebanon crisis in 2006 and the repatriation of droves of Filipina domestic workers to set up the NRCO.

Still, isolated impacts of the migration phenomenon to the Philippines prevailed: reduction in the number of poor Filipinos because of remittances, persistence of inequality, brain drain in some mission-critical sectors (e.g. medical, aviation, engineering), the booming of industries such as rural construction, banking, telecommunications, and real estate, and many more. And whenever the country faces an internal or an external crisis, such as the 2004 fiscal crisis and the 2008 global economic crisis (that dragged in until 2009), ask analysts from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank who provided positive things to save the Philippines: overseas Filipinos.

Routine

When talk is about the Philippines, "overseas migration comes into mind," observes economist David Bloom of Harvard University at an ADB-sponsored conference last April in Manila.

That's what President Arroyo's government did this millennium: whether consciously or unconsciously, the Philippine economy is now a "migration economy" even as agriculture and manufacturing continued to slump and services consistently rose. But like previous presidents from 1974, when former strongman Ferdinand Marcos enacted the Labor Code of the Philippines that included some policies related to the export of labor, overseas migration mitigated many shortcomings in the domestic economy.

Data from 2001 to 2009 cited in a recent policy study funded by the University of Santo Tomas showed why overseas migration alleviated the Philippine economy:

■ **Migration management.** While the aggregated outflow of workers and immigrants rises, year-end pending cases on illegal recruitment and adjudication in the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration are becoming bulky;

■ **Labor market indicators.** The annual outflow of temporary and permanent migrants is already half of the country's unemployed workforce. Overseas migration did not also increase or decrease the number of unemployed at home, as even combining the efforts of deploying new-hire overseas workers and generating new jobs in the Philippines isn't enough to keep stem the tide of homeland unemployment.

■ **Migration and the macroeconomy.** Remittances, on a nine-year average, are nearly a tenth of gross domestic and gross national product (GDP and GNP); are at least 14 percent of domestic consumption; and are a third visible major source of gross international reserves and the country's external debt. The Arroyo government also saw remittances from overseas Filipinos being way, way, way ahead of foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, and official development aid. Imagine what would happen to our Balance of Payments if Filipinos did not remit to the country's formal banking system.

■ Migration and homeland social development. On the good side, remittances were able to reduce the number of actual Filipino poor. On the bad side, inequality wasn't abated because of remittances, as those with financial capabilities are the ones able to migrate. Noticeably, given that the Philippine population is now 93 million, overseas migration also rises.

■ **Harnessing the development potential of Filipinos' overseas migration.** One would wish that there will be more savings and investments from Filipinos abroad that are directed at the Philippines. Amid the mid-decade trend to promote financial literacy to overseas Filipinos, overseas Filipinos' savings and investments are currently not enough to create much economic impact.

Route

Soon, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, as president, will directly handle an entire bureaucracy's commitment to overseas Filipinos' protection and maximizing their socio-economic contributions. Will Noynoy do what her mother Corazon and presidents that followed her did as regards overseas migration and development?

Given how Filipinos' overseas migration impacts on various areas of Philippine society, it may be time for the Philippines to develop a *migration-and-development-system*, not just a system that manages the outflow of people so that the homeland economy merely receives more remittances. Such a migration-and-development system will see the bureaucracy coordinated in protecting the welfare of overseas Filipinos *and* in maximizing the development potential of overseas migration. This can be an agenda for the forthcoming Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

The Philippines' reliance on overseas migration and remittances seems systemic and high, yet one wonders why the country remains less developed all these years. This dependence on migration and remittances was the major migration-and-development outcome of the Arroyo government, and we wonder if the Philippines still has the capability to produce, and to hope for something better here at home.

We look then at how countries that previously sent labor, like Portugal or Korea, did it. The lesson from those countries is that the domestic economy boomed. The lesson also, as a leading migrant advocate said, is *self-sufficiency that relies less on overseas migration and that even uses the resources from overseas Filipinos to buoy further, more than ever, the domestic capacity of the Philippines*.

Such a vision on migration and development for the Philippines, while we cannot prevent people from leaving, surely complements individual overseas Filipinos' dreams of a better economic future.

The author is also with the nonprofit Institute for Migration and Development Issues. Comments are welcome at ofw_philanthropy@yahoo.com.

Maharlika–Samu't Sari

FRIENDSHIP DAY

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, second from left, share a light moment with officials of Filipino organizations on Saipan before the signing of a proclamation, declaring June as NMI-Philippines Friendship Month, yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, second from left, applauds as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs the proclamation declaring the month of June as NMI-Philippines Friendship Month, yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Rodrigo Ada, who graduated from Marianas High School on June 14, 2010, for completing your high school education! Job well done. Have a safe trip to Japan this summer, We know you'll enjoy yourself. We are proud of you and we love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Toto, and Leng.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulation to Lauri Ann C. Guardian, member of The National Society of High School Scholars, for her meritorious scholastic achievement and excellence at Kagman High School. Guardian is the daughter of Priscilla Chavez and Tom Guardian.

A big congratulations to Jeroldyn and Angie Fujihira on your graduation and promotion on June 11, 2010! We wish you both the best of luck. We love you! From the Fujihira family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

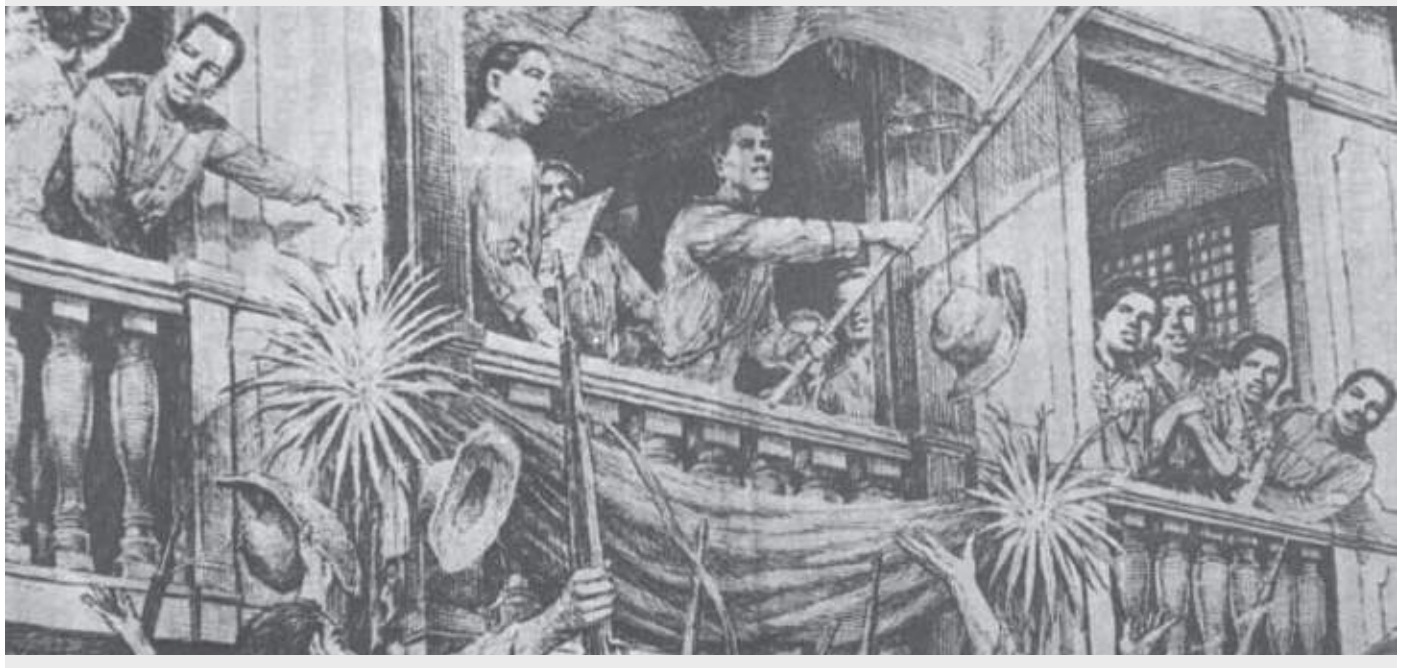
Our son may outgrow our lap, but he will never outgrow our heart. Happy 5th birthday to our son, Andres Jose Santos. Wishing you many more wonderful years to come. We love you very much! From Dad, Mom, your siblings, grandparents, cousins, auntie and uncles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Edward Keoni Ruak Santos, who will be celebrating his fourth birthday tomorrow, June 13! We love you, from the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

We join the Filipino community in the CNMI in celebrating 112 years of independence.



Happy Philippine Independence Day!

Greetings from

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

ERNIE

From Page 13

are on sale at Made in Saipan store. He hopes to work closely with different gift shops on island where he can promote his art.

David, who never went to art school to receive formal training, believes that constantly working on one's art can help improve one's skills as an artist. "Drawing *lang ng* drawing, *kahit na kapag ano lang ang naisip mong gawin, dahil dun mo lalo madedevelop* [Just keep drawing because that will develop your talent]*,"* he said.

For someone who never expected to get paid doing what he loves to do, David reminds his fellow *kababayan* artists that the rewards are far greater than just monetary. "*Kahit na di gaano kumikita dito sa paggawa ng art,* at least *yung sarili mo naman nabibigyan mo ng kasiyahan eh. Kahit gumagawa ka ng ganyan pagka meron kang natapos, masaya na yung pakiramdam mo. Kahit na di kumikita, at least yung kasiyahan na lang na madadama mo sa sarili mo, maganda na yun* [Even if it doesn't pay much, the act itself of drawing and finishing one gives you enough satisfaction]*."*

For inquiries and orders, you may contact Ernie David at 235-5474.

YoungStyle

Kids labeled 'generation next' before they grow up

AP

Kris Sonnenberg, 38, left, sits with her 8-year-old son Mike, 17-year-old daughter Elise, and 12-year-old son Charlie in their backyard Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in Chicago. Kris is considered to be a member of Generation X and Elise is Generation Y. Mike and Charlie may end up being a member of Generation Z, depending on how the youngest up-and-coming generation will be defined.

ON THE NET

- Grail Research Gen Z report: http://www.grailresearch.com/gen(underscore)z

By MARTHA IRVINE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—They aren't even out of grade school. But already, people are trying to name the youngest up-and-coming generation, and figure out who they might be and how they might be different from their predecessors.

At a loss for something more original, many call them Generation Z, because they follow Generations X and Y.

They've also been referred to as Generation Net or "iGen," since they've never known a world without the Internet.

That's the one point most everyone can agree on—that they are the tech-savviest generation of all time, so much so that even toddlers can maneuver their way through YouTube and some first-graders are able to put together a PowerPoint presentation for class.

But beyond that, who are they, really?

Most people agree it's just too early to know for sure. But that hasn't stopped marketers from trying to figure out this young crowd of consumers. Or employers from attempting to prepare for them in the workplace.

Parents, too—many of them Gen Xers—are weighing in, saying they are raising a different brand of kid than baby boomers did.

"I would like to think that ideally, and this might be a bit naive, Gen Xers are a bit more freethinking and not necessarily as compelled to keep up with the Joneses," says Kris Sonnenberg, a teacher in Chicago and 38-year-old mother of three children, ages 8, 12 and 17.

Many parents also think the recession will play a role in shaping who their kids are, and perhaps make them less "entitled," a label that—fair or not—has been slapped frequently on Generation Y, also known as the "millennials."

"We're not afraid to say money's tight, so I feel like our kids are going to have that sense long-term," says Andrew Egbert, a 41-year-old dad who works in manufacturing in Greensboro, N.C. He has a son in fifth grade and a daughter who's a first-grader.

OK, so, let's take a look at the picture that's emerging of Gen Z, for what it's worth. They're young—roughly age 12 or younger.

Generational expert Neil Howe says determining who these youngsters are still is very much a work in progress.

"But there are hints from history," he says.

Howe, who coined the term "millennials," says 2008 may turn out to be one year with a big influence on this generation, due to both the recession and the election of the nation's first black president.

He is calling them the "homelanders" because they are growing up in a time of "greater public urgency and emergency, both at home and around the world."

For that reason, he speculates they could be a new version of the so-called Silent Generation, the group that grew up in the Depression era, who saw the country through World War II and who birthed the baby boomers.

That elder generation was pegged as hardworking and anything but entitled.

Janet Reid, who also has spent time looking at this latest generation, thinks that's a pretty fair appraisal.

"It won't be taken for granted that prosperity is guaranteed," says Reid, a managing partner at Global Novations, a firm that helps corporations develop and attract workers and understand generational differences.

Because they're so hooked into screens of all kinds at a such a young age, she sees Gen Z as more conscious of world events. "They're not just out playing hopscotch," she says.

She also thinks this generation will take characteristics already affiliated with Gen Y to a new level—be that multitasking or a comfort level with different races, ethnicities and cultures.

Seven-year-old Ryan Cook's parents have noticed many of these traits in him.

Asked what a recession is, he's able to tell you that it has to do with the economy and the fact that his parents can't always buy him the things he wants, like video games. "But I think that's fair," he says.

He can tell you that President Barack Obama is the nation's first black president, but—as one whose elementary classroom in suburban Chicago is much more diverse than his parents'—that doesn't seem to phase him much.

"Well, the president is the president," he says nonchalantly. "They don't really change much, except for different speeches."

Like a lot of kids his age, he gets frustrated when he has to sit through TV commercials. He uses his dad's laptop by himself with ease. And though he doesn't have a cell phone, he wants one (partly because his 12-year-old brother has one).

That fits with the notion that, recession or no recession, this generation has a big expectation when it comes to technological gadgets, whether that be cell phones, laptops or the latest version of the iPod or other music players.

And in many instances, their parents are getting them those gadgets, says Nicole Williams, a 39-year-old mom of three who's also a fifth-grade teacher in Seattle.

"They have quick fingers, good muscle strength in those fingers," Williams says, laughing as she refers to the many technological devices her students use in and outside class.

These devices are so coveted—and a sign of status—that theft can be a problem.

That's not surprising to Colin Gounden, a research specialist who thinks access to technology will play a big role in determining which Gen Zers thrive, and which don't.

"There is a segmentation of haves and have-nots that is very global. If you are in Mississippi or Bangalore, if you don't have Internet, your experience is quite parallel," says Gounden, global head of research for Integreon Inc., whose subsidiary Grail Research has compiled a report on Gen Z.

Among other things, he also thinks this generation is more likely to be debt-ridden, partly because getting a college degree will be as important for them as a high school diploma was for their grandparents and great-grandparents.

Rare photo of slave children found in NC attic

By NICOLE NORFLEET
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A haunting 150-year-old photo found in a North Carolina attic shows a young black child named John, barefoot and wearing ragged clothes, perched on a barrel next to another unidentified young boy.

Art historians believe it's an extremely rare Civil War-era photograph of children who were either slaves at the time or recently emancipated.

The photo, which may have been taken in the early 1860s, was a testament to a dark part of American history, said Will Stapp, a photographic historian and founding curator of the National Portrait Gallery's photographs department at the Smithsonian Institution.

"It's a very difficult and poignant piece of American history," he said. "What you are looking at when you look at this photo are two boys who were victims of that history."

In April, the photo was found at a moving sale in Charlotte, accompanied by a document detailing the sale of John for $1,150, not a small sum in 1854.

New York collector Keya Morgan said he paid $30,000 for the photo album including the photo of the young boys and several family pictures and $20,000 for the sale document. Morgan said the deceased owner of the home where the photo was found was thought to be a descendant of John.

A portrait of slave children is rare, Morgan said.

"I buy stuff all the time, but this shocked me," he said.

What makes the picture an even more compelling find is that several art experts said it was created by the photography studio of Mathew Brady, a famous 19th-century photographer known for his portraits of historical figures such as President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

AP

An undated rare photo provided by Keya Morgan, found in a North Carolina attic, depicts two slave children, art historians say.

Stapp said the photo was probably not taken by Brady himself but by Timothy O'Sullivan, one of Brady's apprentices. O'Sullivan took a multitude of photos depicting the carnage of the Civil War.

In 1862, O'Sullivan famously photographed a group of some of the first slaves liberated after Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Such photos were circulated in the North by abolitionists to garner support for the Union during the Civil War, said Harold Holzer, an author of several books about Lincoln. Holzer works as an administrator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Most of the photos depicted adult slaves who had been beaten or whipped, he said.

The photo of the two boys is more subtle, Holzer said, which may be why it wasn't widely circulated and remained unpublished for so long.

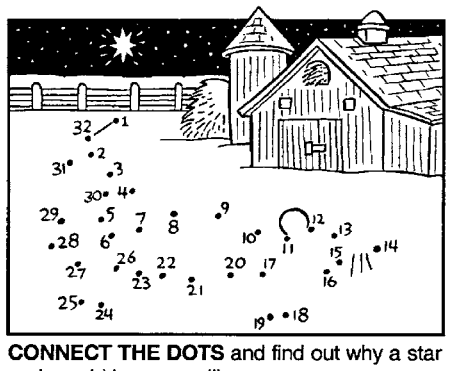
"To me, it's such a moving and astonishing picture," he said.

Ron Soodalter, an author and member of the board of directors at the Abraham Lincoln Institute in Washington, D.C., said the photo depicts the reality of slavery.

"I think this picture shows that the institution of slavery didn't pick or choose," said Soodalter, who has written several books on historic and modern slavery. "This was a generic horror. It victimized the old, the young."

For now, Morgan said, he is keeping the photo in his personal collection, but he said he has had an inquiry to sell the photo to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He said he is considering participating in the creation of a video documentary about John.

"This kid was abused and mistreated and people forgot about him," Morgan said. "He doesn't even exist in history. And to know that there were a million children who were like him. I've never seen another photo like that that speaks so much for children."

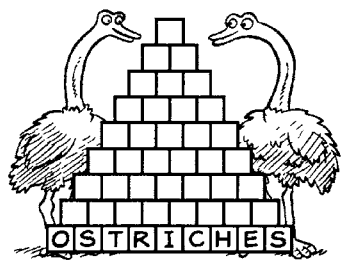


CONNECT THE DOTS and find out why a star and an old barn are alike.

Answer: Because they both contain r-a-t-s.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

You won't solve this one by sticking your head in the sand. Starting with the given word OSTRICHES at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. You have three minutes. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with OSTRICHES.

1. Large, flightless African birds.
2. Most resembling a thoroughbred.
3. Found in libraries.
4. A female relative.
5. Rows in a stadium.
6. A building's location.
7. Part of railroad tracks.
8. A player in the game of tag.
9. Symbol for iodine.

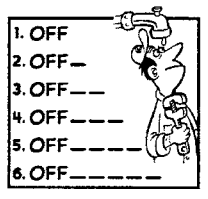
Answers: (from the bottom up): 1. Ostriches. 2. Horsiest. 3. Stories. 4. Sister. 5. Tiers. 6. Site. 7. Tie. 8. It. 9. I.

A PUNCTURE PROBLEM! Try nailing down the answer to this AlphaMath puzzle before the tire is fixed. Replace the letters in our sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 to get a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

Our answer: T=1, I=4, R=0, E=2, N=7, A=5, L=9, F=8 (1402 +7549 = 8951).

DON'T GET TURNED OFF BY THIS ONE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with OFF. Some hints are:

1. OFF (in place).
2. Goes away from.
3. To present for consideration.
4. Out of pitch.
5. Transfer data.
6. Behind the scenes.



Answers: 1. Off. 2. Offs. 3. Offer. 4. Off-key. 5. Offload. 6. Offstage.

Illustrated by David Coulson

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How to avoid dog bites

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm not afraid of dogs, but I worry about getting bitten sometimes. My older brother told me that only mean dogs will bite, but I'm not sure about that. How can I tell when a dog is about to bite?—Kerry in South Dakota

DEAR KERRY: Unfortunately, it's not true that only "mean" dogs bite. Any dog can bite, even a gentle one, if it is in pain, startled or protecting something like its puppies or a toy. So, your instinct is right on: Don't be afraid of dogs, but use caution and respect when interacting with them.

The U.S. Postal Service has some tips to follow to minimize the risk of being bitten:

■ Don't run past a dog. The dog's natural instinct is to chase and catch prey.

■ If a dog threatens you, don't scream. Avoid eye contact. Try to remain motionless until the dog leaves, then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.

■ Don't approach a strange dog, especially one that's tethered or confined.

■ While letter carriers are discouraged from petting animals, people who choose to pet dogs should always let a dog see and sniff them before petting the animal.

■ If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle.

You can find more information about preventing dog bites at http://www.avma.org/public_health/dogbite/default.asp

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American author, playwright, screenwriter and political activist Gore Vidal who made the following sage observation: "Any American who is prepared to run for president should automatically, by definition, be disqualified from ever doing so."

■ The next time you get a chance, you might want to check the pressure of your car's tires; if they're not inflated to the correct pressure, you're contributing to the $9 million in fuel that is wasted due to improper tire pressure, according to the Department of Energy.

■ If you ever go to Rome, one of the sights that must be seen is the Trevi Fountain, the elaborate Baroque installment that was completed in 1762. According to legend, anyone who throws a coin in the fountain is ensured a return visit to Rome. This is, evidently, a popular tradition; every night approximately $3,500 is retrieved from the fountain. The money is used to fund a supermarket for the city's needy.

■ In this era of ubiquitous technology and instant communication through e-mail and text message, the average American still receives 1.5 personal letters each week. Of course, you have to weigh that against the 10.8 pieces of junk mail that arrive on a weekly basis.

■ Due to the rising prices of the materials used to mint coins, it now costs 2 cents to manufacture every penny and 9 cents to make a nickel.

■ In 2006, an Illinois police officer was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. This probably would not be noteworthy, except that it was the same police officer who received an award for making the most DUI arrests in his county.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask them where they're going and hook up with them later."—Mitch Hedberg

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MAGIC MAZE

BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

R E B Y V S Q N K W H E B Y W
T R O L J G E B A Y W U R Y P
R N K E L T T I L O O D R Y B
T E D K E N N E D Y S A I N G
D B V Z X W V M S H E Q O E M
K I G O R E C O A P M S Y R W
U S Q I K P N S L R L J L R H
F E G C A C Y S X U O T F A T
V H U S Q P I I N M H K M W H
T K Y E L D A R B A J H F F E
C B Z Y X R E G R U B V U J T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

A. Murphy, Bradley, Burger, Byrd, Doolittle, Grissom, Halsey, JFK, Peary, RFK, Rickover, Taft, Ted Kennedy, Wainwright, Warren

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		÷		4
+		−		x	
	+		−		9
−		x		+	
	−		x		3
2		5		9	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

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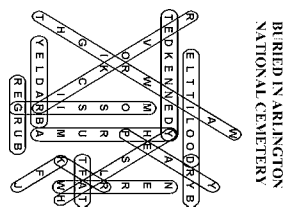
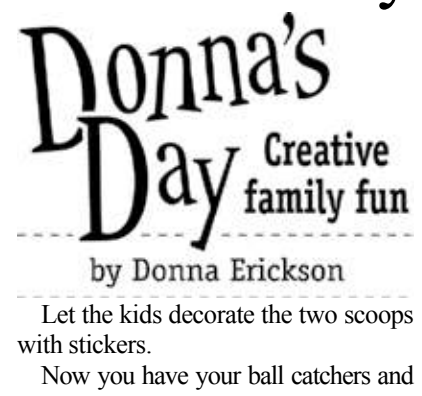
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

7	+	9	÷	4	4
+		−		x	
3	+	8	−	2	9
	x		−		1
8	−	5	x	1	3
	2		5		2

Scoop up fun on Father's Day



Make a wonderfully versatile toy for the family to enjoy with Dad on Father's Day and all summer long. These scoops for tossing and catching lightweight balls are perfect for play in the backyard, at a park or especially when you're at the beach. So when the family wants to play a game of catch, you've got that one covered. And when you need a sand shovel, you've got that one, too.

Start by fishing around under your sink or in the recycling bin for two plastic laundry detergent bottles. You might want to think about pouring the contents of an almost-empty container into a small plastic container so that you can get this activity on the road.

Here's what you'll need:

■ Two 2-quart or larger plastic laundry detergent bottles with side handles
■ Scissors
■ Marker
■ Stickers
■ Child's sock (optional)

Here's the fun:

Wash the 2 bottles and remove any paper labels. With a pair of sharp scissors, an adult should cut off the entire base of each bottle and toss the pieces back in the recycling bin. It's easier to cut off than it might look. Dig the tip of the scissors into a point along the line of the base and then just start cutting.

On the handle side of the container, draw a big "U" shape with a marker so that the bottom of the "U" meets the handle. The shape should be wider than the size of a plastic Wiffle-style ball and extend to the cut-off base. Again, an adult should cut this shape out. Soften the edges by trimming off and rounding the sharp corners.

Let the kids decorate the two scoops with stickers.

Now you have your ball catchers and great sand shovels. But uh-oh. In the middle of a great game of scooper catch, the ball disappears into an unexpected wave. Is the game over? No!

Remove the lid and cup a sock around the spout of one of the scoops. Pour some sand into the scoop so that it works as a funnel, filling the bottom of the sock. When your "ball" is the size you would like for tossing, remove from the scoop and tie a secure tight knot in the sock. Replace the lid on the scoop.

Stand up, put the sock in one scoop, give the other scoop to a friend, and toss the ball!

If you miss, keep at it. It does take practice, after all.

Tip: If your kids are a little older and are skilled ball players, you might want to consider making the opening of the scoop a bit smaller for more of a challenge. Or, simply start with a smaller detergent bottle.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Shakira, Peas & Keys perform at World Cup concert

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— The world came to Soweto on Thursday for a celebration of soccer, music and unity on the eve of Africa's first World Cup, with a concert featuring international headliners Shakira, the Black Eyed Peas and Alicia Keys.

Warm-up acts played for hours before the internationally televised portion of the concert at Orlando Stadium began at 8 p.m. with a frenzy of flag waving, drumming and African-inspired dancing.

Veteran South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela took the stage with "Grazin' in the Grass" a No. 1 international hit in 1968. He was quickly joined by a new South African star, Lira, who covered the late Miriam Makeba's "Pata Pata", another worldwide hit that originated in South Africa.

The Black Eyed Peas were next with a slick medley of their hits, then it was back to Africa, with the blind duo Amadou & Mariam of Mali and their sinuous, driving sound.

Shakira, wearing an animal print, waka waka-ed—the anthem and dance of the World Cup. The turbaned Tinariwen brought the sounds of Mali's desert nomads to the mix. The crowd swayed to Keys, and did the toyi-toyi—the protest dance of the apartheid era—to hometown favorites BLK JKS. Colombian rocker Juanes, in a multicolored warm-up jacket, debuted his newest single, "Yerbatero" to cheers from the crowd.

No multistarred stadium show would be complete without everyone on stage for a rousing, closing anthem. Thursday, it was Sly and the Family Stone's "Everyday People," punctuated by fireworks.

An exuberant Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in full South African green-and-yellow fan regalia, was treated like a rock star as he led the crowd in cheers for Nelson Mandela, who is credited with sealing South Africa's bid to host the World Cup.

Tutu also acknowledged the fans from around the world who have come to South Africa for soccer's premier event.

"We welcome you all. For Africa is the cradle of humanity, so we welcome you home," he said.

About a third of the seats at Soweto's 40,000-seat Orlando stadium were blocked off for the stage and backstage. Most of what was left were filled, as was a dance floor on the pitch.

The monthlong tournament the concert celebrates begins Friday at the main Soccer City stadium just outside Soweto, with host South Africa taking on Mexico. Organizers called the concert and the first game triumphs after years of questions about whether a world class event could be staged in a nation saddled with poverty and crime and still riven by the legacy of apartheid.

"This is a showcase," concertgoer Nana Masithela said as she entered Orlando on Thursday. "We are showcasing ourselves, to say, 'Blacks can do it!' "

Sepp Blatter, head of soccer's world governing body FIFA, had pushed to bring the World Cup to Africa. He made a brief appearance during the concert to speak about 1GOAL, a campaign to improve education in impoverished countries. South African President Jacob Zuma, who took the stage with Blatter, thanked South Africans for the welcome they have given World Cup fans, and called on them "to show the warmness for the whole duration of the tournament."

Orlando, the venue for Thursday's concert, got a three-year, $43 million renovation as part of a nationwide building spree in preparation for the World Cup.

South Africans of all races filled Orlando, parading in the yellow and green of their national team, or draping themselves in their flag. Soccer fans from other countries also sported their colors.

Concertgoer Tumi Mohafa said the mix of races in the renovated stadium in an area where blacks once were confined is a sign of how far South Africa has come from apartheid, which ended in 1994.

"We're a rainbow nation," Mohafa said.

Black Eyed Pea's singer Fergie, 2nd left, is flanked by Will.I.Am, left, Taboo, right, and Apl.d.Ap, 2nd right, during a photo opportunity at the Soccer City stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

AP

Fergie shares a flirty moment with Nelson Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas discovered she has a not-so-secret admirer in South Africa: Nelson Mandela.

The band met with the legendary civil rights leader while visiting the country to perform at the World Cup kickoff concert, and Fergie says Mandela flirted with her.

The 35-year-old singer said "it was one of the best moments of my life." She also acknowledged flirting back with the 91-year-old former president.

Fergie and her band mates said they were moved to see so many nations coming together to celebrate the soccer tournament.

Apartheid was not all that distant, she said, noting that "20 years ago this would not have been possible in South Africa."

The World Cup begins Friday.

R. Kelly says Cup anthem carried message of hope

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)— Singer R. Kelly said he hopes his new World Cup anthem can inspire people in much the same way as his signature song "I Believe I Can Fly."

Kelly's new "Sign of a Victory" has been declared the official anthem for the World Cup. The songwriter said in an interview on Wednesday that it carried a message of hope and triumph.

"It's definitely no doubt a humanity song, and I'm hoping that everybody feels the same way when they hear it," he said. "(I'm) hoping they can be as touched by it as I was when I heard it in my head."

R. Kelly

Working with the Soweto Spiritual Singers on the song was an "unbelievable" experience, he said.

It's R. Kelly's second trip to Africa. He toured the continent last year, overcoming his fear of flying.

"I always said, `I can't get on the plane, I can't get on the plane,'" he explained. "But when I finally did get up the nerve to get on the plane and come on over to Africa, the welcome was so unbelievably warm. It was just so touching that I couldn't believe it."

Gary Coleman's ex-wife seeks estate

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— The ex-wife of Gary Coleman filed a petition on Thursday in a Utah court to be appointed as the special administrator of the former child actor's estate.

The petition filed in 4th District Court in Provo said even though Coleman and Shannon Price were divorced in August 2008, she is still his common law wife and that she should be the one to make funeral arrangements. It wasn't publicly known that the two were divorced until after his death. The divorce papers were sealed in Utah courts.

Price referred to Coleman as her husband when she called 911 on May 26, saying the actor had fallen and was bleeding severely from the back of his head.

Coleman died May 28 after suffering a brain hemorrhage and his last-known will names friend and former manager Dion Mial as his estate's executor.

Coleman said in the 1999 will that he wanted to be remembered in a wake conducted by people who had no financial ties to the star of the sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes."

However, documents filed by Price's attorneys say they have an unsigned will drawn up in 2005 that names Price as the conservator of his estate.

Among the exhibits attached to Price's affidavit is a 2007 handwritten note with Coleman's signature that's intended to amend any earlier wills and name Price as the sole heir of his earnings, home, toy trains and other property.

"I made this change of free will and was not coerced in any way," says the note dated Sept. 4, 2007, less than a month after Coleman and Price married. "This I have done because of my personal selfishness and my weakness and I love her with all my heart."

Coleman met Price in 2005 on the set of the movie "Church Ball."

The documents said Price and Coleman lived together at his Santaquin home about 65 miles south of Salt Lake City until his death, maintained joint bank accounts and had sexual relations.

The couple "assumed all marital rights, duties and obligations consistent with a marital relationship after the decree was entered," including filing taxes as a married couple.

A message left after hours for Price's attorneys, Todd Bradford and Mitchell Maughan, was not immediately returned.

Kent Alderman, Mial's attorney, said he had not read Price's filing, which seeks to block Mial from making any burial or financial decisions related to the estate.

He called the argument that Price is still Coleman's common law wife "an interesting theory."

"I just don't know how a court would find on that question," he said.

"There is a hearing scheduled for next Monday, but because of the factual intensity of the allegations, I would think you're going to have to have a full trial and have witnesses testify."

Coleman was still conscious when he was taken to a hospital in Provo, but slipped into unconsciousness the next day and was placed on life support. It was Price—named in an advanced health care directive—who ordered that he be taken off it.

Coleman starred for eight seasons on the sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes," starting in 1978. The tiny 10-year-old's "Whachu talkin' 'bout?" became a catch phrase in the show about two African-American brothers adopted by a wealthy white man. He played Arnold Jackson, the younger of the two brothers.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, actor Gary Coleman, best known from the television series "Diff'rent Strokes" and his wife Shannon Price, appear on the the NBC "Today" television program in New York.

AP

British music mogul Simon Cowell holds his honorary Bafta Award, during the British Academy Television Awards at the London Palladium in central London, Sunday, June 6, 2010.

Cowell-backed 'Shout' boosts England World Cup bid

LONDON (AP)—Simon Cowell thinks he knows what's needed to boost England's World Cup chances—a song produced by him.

The impresario and former "American Idol" judge has persuaded rapper Dizzee Rascal and actor James Corden to record "Shout for England," a hip-hop reworking of Tears for Fears' 1984 hit "Shout."

The song urges England's players to "set aside your ego/ We're tired of bragging about 40-odd years ago."

Soccer-mad England hasn't won the cup since 1966.

The song had its debut this weekend on TV show "Britain's Got Talent." Cowell, a producer and judge on the show, said he hoped it "could get England to win the World Cup. That's what it's all about."

The track was released Wednesday, with proceeds going to charity.

The tournament opens Friday in South Africa.

Sting questions wisdom of drilling deep Gulf well

DENVER (AP)—British rock star Sting says that like everyone, he's paying attention to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and wonders why such a deep well was approved from the start.

Sting was preparing Thursday for a second night at Denver's Red Rocks Amphitheatre as part of his tour with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. He stopped by the Denver Art Museum to look at a painting of southern Colorado's Mount Blanca by his friend Stephen Hannock, whose work he collects.

He asks, "What were they doing drilling that deep without any safeguards? Who allowed that to happen?"

The BP well has been spewing millions of gallons of oil since the rig exploded April 20.

AP

Rock star and environmental activist Sting, front, joins painter Stephen Hannock in looking over Hannock's atmospheric Colorado landscape titled "Mount Blanca with Ute Creek at Dawn" where the painting is displayed in the Denver Art Museum in Denver on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

US actress Jane Fonda honored in Paris

AP

US actress Jane Fonda displays the Vermeil Medal of the City of Paris she received, during a ceremony in Paris, Thursday, June 10, 2010.

PARIS (AP)—The mayor of the City of Light has honored actress Jane Fonda in a Paris ceremony.

Bertrand Delanoe bestowed the Great Medal of the City of Paris upon the Academy Award-winning actress Thursday.

Fonda, who was sporting a navy pantsuit for the occasion, said she loves being in France and considers the country "like a second home."

The ceremony took place during a news conference about the Paris Cinema festival, which will also count Indian-born director M. Night Shyamalan and French heartthrob Louis Garrel among its guest stars.

The festival runs from July 3-13.

U2 is providing the soundtrack to ESPN's soccer

NEW YORK (AP)—ESPN is using U2's music as a soundtrack to its World Cup coverage.

The band struck a deal with the network for its music to be featured in promotions of World Cup coverage, and spots have been running since April. ESPN uses footage from the band's 2009 concert at the Rose Bowl.

South Africa's Soweto Gospel Choir also recorded versions of some U2 songs for use in the ads.

One ad uses U2's song "Passion" in talking about the World Cup, and notes there was a baby boom in Germany nine months after the country hosted the 2006 World Cup.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Lady Gaga calls her own shot at Citi Field

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe Lady Gaga should stick with the Yankees. Photos showed the pop music star in the Citi Field crowd Thursday, making an obscene gesture during the opener of a day-night doubleheader between the New York Mets and San Diego Padres. It was unclear what prompted the obscene gesture from a luxury suite. The Mets say the singer did not attend the second game. Known for her wild wardrobe and songs such as "Paparazzi," Lady Gaga grew up in New York going to Yankees games with her father. She was in town this week for her sister's high school graduation.

NYC parade will have a king: Marc Anthony

NEW YORK (AP)—Marc Anthony will be the king of New York's annual Puerto Rican Day Parade on Sunday. The Creativelink agency quoted the singer Thursday as saying that he was very proud to receive the recognition from the parade organizers and the community. The agency says Anthony had initially intended to make only a brief appearance but cleared his schedule for his new starring role. Actor Osvaldo Rios dropped out this week as the parade's international godfather after critics called for a boycott. Rios was convicted on a domestic violence charge in 2003. Rio said he had learned his lesson and asked for forgiveness. Anthony, who is of Puerto Rican descent, recently released a new album, "Iconos." This week it was ranked No. 11 on Billboard's Top 200.

LA DA rejects assault charges against Suge Knight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors have declined to file assault charges against Marion "Suge" Knight but are asking police to investigate further. Los Angeles police had sought assault with a deadly weapon charges against the former rap mogul after Knight's May 20 arrest for allegedly pointing a gun at a man. Knight was released hours after his arrest after posting $65,000 bail. Los Angeles County District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison say prosecutors rejected filing the charges Thursday. An after-hours message left for Knight's attorney, Marc Brumer, was not immediately returned. Brumer had denied a confrontation ever happened or that Knight was carrying a gun. The 45-year-old is the co-founder of Death Row Records, which produced albums by rappers such as Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre.

T.R. Knight returning to Broadway in Mamet play

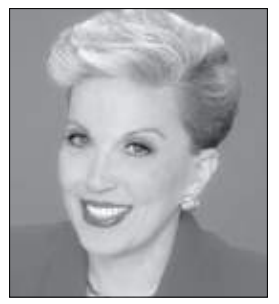
NEW YORK (AP)—Former "Grey's Anatomy" star T.R. Knight has prescribed a return to Broadway for himself. It was announced Thursday that Knight, who played Dr. George O'Malley on ABC's medical drama, will star opposite Patrick Stewart in David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre." Rehearsals are set to begin in August. Knight will play the role of John, a relative newcomer to acting who's counseled by a veteran performer. Stewart, starring as the older actor, last appeared on Broadway in 2008 in "Macbeth" and received a Tony Award nomination. "A Life in the Theatre" premiered in 1977 in Chicago and opened off-Broadway that year. Previews for the new production with Knight and Stewart are scheduled to begin in September.

Conan O'Brien drops the needle on a vinyl record

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Conan O'Brien may have missed his calling. The once and future late night television host laid down a scorching set at Jack White's Third Man Records on Thursday night in Nashville, Tenn., and plans to release a vinyl album of the show. O'Brien has been touring the country with his band, putting on comedy shows while waiting for his new hosting gig at TBS to start. He left "The Tonight Show" earlier this year after NBC reinstalled former host Jay Leno. The redheaded host used The Redheaded Stranger Willie Nelson's "On The Road Again" to poke fun at his situation, singing, "My old show again/I just can't wait to get my old show again." O'Brien's next stop is Bonnaroo this weekend.

Teenager feels unsettled by boyfriend's roving eye

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and have been dating "Raymond" for two years. The thing that concerns me is we aren't supposed to be attracted to other people, but I think he is. During arguments he has thrown other girls in my face. That really hurt, and I can't get over it.

I think he's attracted to other girls, but he doesn't want me to be attracted to other guys. Can you please give me some advice? I'd really like to know what's going on inside his head. Are his eyes for me only?

TEEN IN MERCED, CALIF.

DEAR TEEN: Probably not. It's normal for men—and women, by the way—of all ages to be attracted to people other than their mate. However, those with good character resist the urge to act on it.

Now for some advice: You became involved with Raymond at a very young age, which has prevented both of you from having the normal kinds of dating experiences that are supposed to happen in high school. If he is restless, it would be better for both of you to date others, at least for a while. If you are meant to be together, your relationship will stand the test of exposure to others.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Russ," and I have been married 13 years. During that time he has lost more than 15 jobs for various reasons—tardiness, not performing up to par, etc. I finally was able to convince him to get tested when I noticed he was having difficulty paying attention. He was diagnosed with ADHD, and they said he has an IQ of about 80.

I am working on my doctorate. I hold a job with other wives whose husbands have "great jobs," and I sometimes don't know what to say about Russ. He's a good person, very loving and tries his best, but honestly, I do get frustrated and have a little bit of "husband envy."

Russ is 50 and we have no children. How do I come to grips with the fact that he may never be a provider?

CHALLENGED IN NEW YORK

DEAR CHALLENGED: Your marriage has lasted 13 years, so Russ must be doing something right. Not all men are great financial providers, but most manage to make up for it in other ways.

I'll bet the other wives never say a word about their husbands' shortcomings during those chat fests. One way to come to grips with the fact that Russ may "never be a provider" would be to refrain from making comparisons when your co-workers start bragging about their spouses.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every time I turn on the radio or television, I hear "Call 1-800-THE-COMPANY." I know advertisers want listeners to remember them by their company name, and they think it's a clever reminder of their telephone number—but it has become silly.

I have poor eyesight, and it's not an easy task trying to decipher those 800 numbers. Why can't they mention the number along with their cute little jingle? It would make contacting them a heck of a lot easier for people like me who happen to be ...

BLIND AS A BAT IN COLORADO

DEAR BLIND AS A BAT: You make a good point. Foolish is the vendor who makes it difficult for prospective customers to make contact. It doesn't make sense to sacrifice the practical for the "cute," even though it's often tempting.

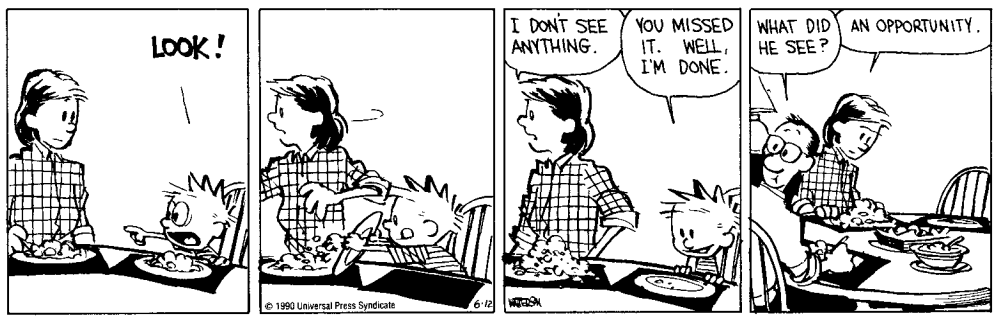
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

OL'SHECKY WAS A FUN FISH. I'LL SURE MISS HIM
I GUESS IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY...
"NEVER EAT THE ENTERTAINMENT"
JIM DAVIS 6/12
www.garfield.com
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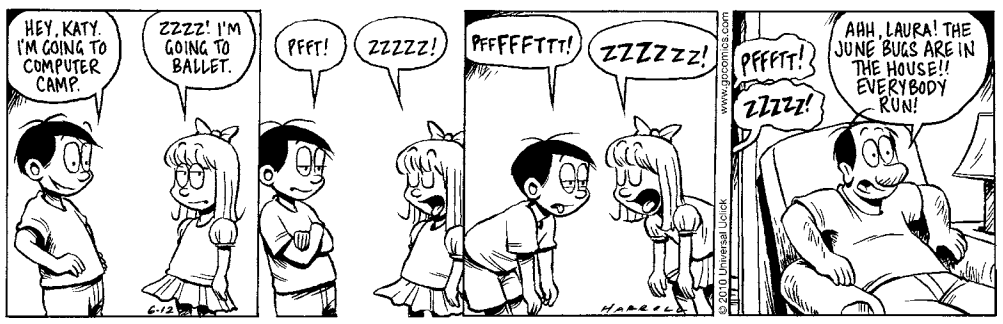
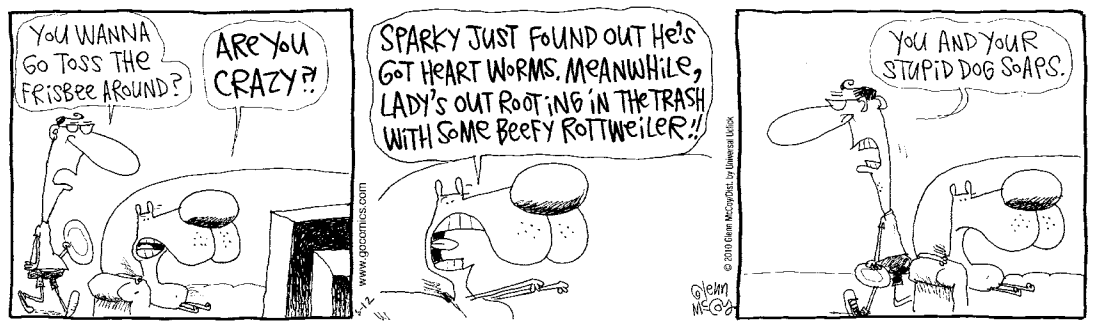
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU WANNA GO TOSS THE FRISBEE AROUND?
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
SPARKY JUST FOUND OUT HE'S GOT HEART WORMS. MEANWHILE, LADY'S OUT ROOTING IN THE TRASH WITH SOME BEEFY ROTTWEILER!!
YOU AND YOUR STUPID DOG SOAPS.
www.gocomics.com
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6-12

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 $ dispenser
4 Cold War abbr.
8 Apple co-founder Steve
12 Payable
13 Spiked club
14 Earthenware pot
15 "CSI" evidence
16 Lingerie items
17 MGM mascot
18 2010 Oscar recipient
21 Cheerleader's cry
22 Possibly will
23 "Home, —"
26 Dubya's brother
27 Biblical verb suffix
30 Over again
31 1963 Paul Newman movie
32 Arctic mass
33 Peruke
34 Lustrous black
35 Minion of Satan
36 Distant
37 Lubricate
38 Movie for which 18-Across won a Razzie
45 Non-clerical
46 Really enjoying
47 Sunday seating
48 Pinnacle
49 Mulligan, for one
50 Anger
51 Progeny
52 Early period
53 Couric's employer

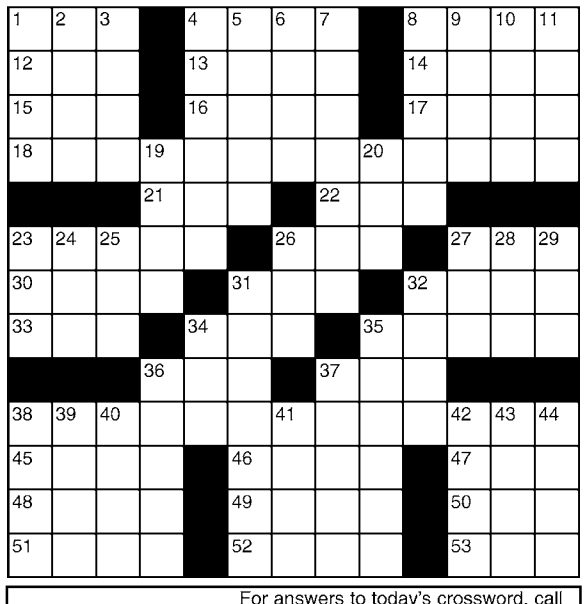
DOWN

1 Keeps talking
2 Albacore, e.g.
3 Contemptible
4 Shaded areas
5 Fergie, formally
6 Wound cover
7 Picked up where one left off
8 Santa-esque
9 Medley
10 United nations
11 Went under
19 Sketched
20 Retriever type, for short
23 Boxer's target
24 Blackbird
25 "Little Women" woman
26 Stick out
27 Shade provider
28 Excessively
29 Chick's mama
31 Bravery
32 Sensed
34 Poke
35 Take out of the will, maybe
36 Confronted
37 Playful water critter
38 "Sad to say, ..."
39 Chantilly, e.g.
40 Rickey flavoring
41 "Do — others ..."
42 Grand story
43 Predicate part
44 Rams fans?

Solution time: 27 mins.

E	M	S		A	T	E		L	U	G	E	D
G	A	L		G	A	D		O	Z	O	N	E
G	N	U		H	I	G	H	F	I	V	E	S
A	N	N		A	W	A	I	T				
R	A	G	S		A	R	E		D	A	H	L
			O	W	N		D	R	I	V	E	S
A	P	P	L	E				E	M	E	N	D
C	H	I	V	E	S		E	V	E			
T	I	N	E		A	D	O		S	U	N	G
			E	R	I	C	A		N	O	R	
N	I	N	E	L	I	V	E	S		F	B	I
A	R	O	M	A		O	N	E		I	L	L
B	E	G	U	N		T	E	A		T	E	L

Yesterday's answer 6-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kendra Wilkinson Baskett, 25; Kenny Wayne Shepherd, 33; Chick Corea, 69; Jim Nabors, 80

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will arise and matters of the past will have to be resolved before you can proceed. Take the initiative. Your ability to take control and show leadership will grab the attention of the people deciding your fate. It's your game, so play to win. Show everyone what you are capable of doing. Your numbers are 3, 11, 20, 22, 34, 40, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Address outstanding issues and you will feel better. Don't let it bother you or stop you from having a good time if someone opts not to join you. Opportunities will develop if you talk to a trusted friend or someone with experience. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may feel uncertain about your future but that's no reason to jump to conclusions or make sudden changes. Kick back with friends and do something you enjoy to ease your stress. A trip, a new hobby or a new skill will inspire you to rethink your plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your intuition will lead you in the right direction. Added responsibilities will make it difficult to follow your own plan. Before you become unsettled with a situation, take a pass. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Someone from your past will bring back memories you thought you put behind you. Don't get upset—face any remaining issues head on. Letting go of the past will free you to take on new adventures. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Getting involved in something that will help a cause or someone you care about will bring unexpected benefits. Your highly entertaining way of expression will leave an excellent impression that will help you engage in interesting proposals. Love and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your plans a secret for now. Just when you think you are on the right track, you are likely to change your mind, confusing the people around you. If it helps you finish what you start, it's worth the upset. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Bring your good ideas out into the open where you can entice others to join in and help you accomplish your goals. Travel and learning are in the stars. You will use the power of persuasion masterfully. Romantic plans will live up to your expectations. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Spend on home, family and yourself. Now is not the time to share with outsiders what you've worked so hard to acquire. Someone will recognize your talent. Money is in your not too distant future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You aren't seeing clearly emotionally. This could cost you financially. Avoid anyone who is trying to back you into a corner. Now is the time to put an end to relationships and deals you feel won't have a good ending. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You cannot make a decision without having all the facts. You owe it to yourself and those you love to spend more time enjoying and sharing the fruits of your labor. If you are restless, put your energy into making your place more comfortable. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Spend time at home. Invite friends or family over and share thoughts and ideas. An interesting concept will grab your attention. Start the ball rolling. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Do whatever is necessary to avoid a disagreement. Stick to plans that allow you to do your own thing and get out and meet new people. A chance to make some cash is apparent through winnings, a gift or collecting a debt. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, forceful and always willing to debate. You are competitive and an all around player.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		5		2			
5						8		
		9		7			6	
6								1
		7		5		4		
4								3
	7			8		1		
		2						5
			3		9		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	4	8	3	6	2	1	7
8	2	3	7	5	1	4	9	6
6	7	1	9	2	4	8	3	5
1	4	6	3	9	5	7	8	2
7	5	9	2	1	8	6	4	3
3	8	2	6	4	7	1	5	9
9	3	7	4	8	2	5	6	1
2	1	8	5	6	3	9	7	4
4	6	5	1	7	9	3	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DELETING JUNK MAIL **Solution: 5 letters**

P	D	P	C	O	N	T	E	N	T	O	F	F	E	R
M	E	E	L	I	M	I	N	A	T	E	R	C	A	S
A	E	R	T	L	T	R	E	L	A	U	I	E	N	S
I	M	S	M	N	A	A	C	L	L	F	L	E	O	E
L	A	O	S	A	A	T	M	E	F	C	P	L	E	C
B	I	N	P	A	N	W	S	O	O	O	I	R	T	C
O	L	A	Y	T	G	E	N	N	T	C	L	E	E	A
X	B	L	W	A	E	E	N	U	I	U	F	D	L	S
O	L	A	A	D	L	E	A	T	E	I	A	U	E	E
B	O	R	R	I	C	W	S	V	L	M	P	C	D	R
N	C	G	E	T	Y	C	O	T	O	Y	O	E	E	V
I	K	E	I	S	C	M	E	R	S	I	R	H	C	I
K	I	O	D	A	E	R	N	U	M	I	D	E	O	C
D	N	E	S	R	R	S	Ⓑ	Ⓤ	Ⓖ	Ⓢ	L	L	D	E
S	G	A	T	V	I	R	U	S	P	A	M	P	E	S

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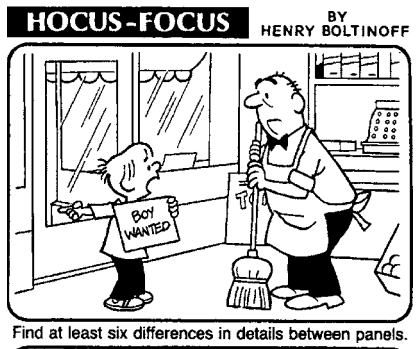
Access, Alert, Automatic, Avoid, Blocking, Bugs, Clear, Connection, Content, Data, Decode, Delete, Drop, Eliminate, E-mail, Filter, Folder, Help, Home, Inbox, Install, Large, Lists, Mailbox, Message, Offer, Office, Open, Permanently, Personal, Recycle, Reduce, Remove, Rules, Send, Services, Solicit, Spam, Spyware, Tags, Unread, Unwanted, Uses, Virus, Worms

Yesterday's Answer: Encounters

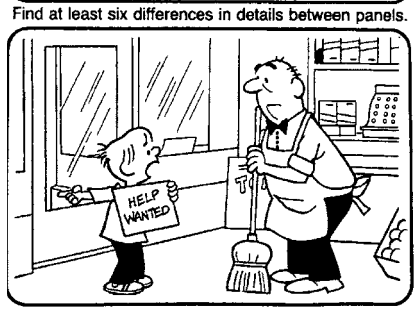
Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Shirt has buttons. 3. More fruit in box on floor. 4. Awning is missing. 5. Display near register is gone. 6. Man's right hand is hidden.

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Wishing Well®

2	4	2	4	3	6	4	3	2	6	7	2	5
S	A	I	G	A	A	R	K	N	G	C	G	S
3	6	3	6	5	7	2	4	3	6	8	5	8
I	I	N	F	T	O	O	I	D	T	D	A	O
7	5	2	7	3	2	7	8	4	8	4	2	7
R	Y	T	R	L	H	E	N	N	O	T	E	C
8	7	3	2	7	3	7	2	8	7	6	8	5
T	T	Y	R	M	G	I	S	H	S	A	E	A
3	8	6	2	5	3	5	2	3	2	7	4	8
E	S	R	P	C	S	T	R	T	A	T	O	I
2	5	8	5	6	2	8	5	4	8	6	7	8
I	I	T	V	R	S	A	E	D	T	I	A	E
3	2	6	4	2	4	6	3	7	3	7	6	7
U	E	V	A	S	Y	E	R	K	E	E	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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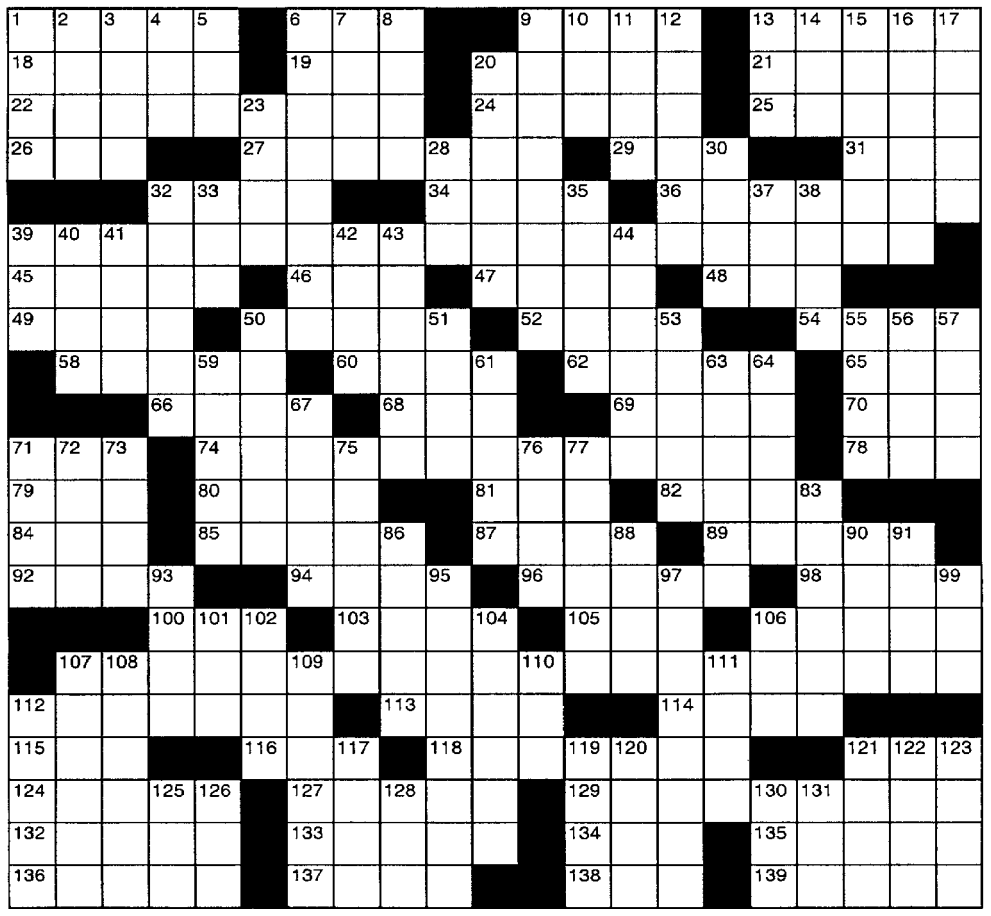
Super Crossword APPRECIATION

ACROSS

1 Ivanhoe's creator
6 Corn holder
9 Wild child
13 Talk out of
18 Jazzman Chick
19 "— Good Cop" ('91 film)
20 Russell of "Gladiator"
21 Florida city
22 Start of a remark by Franklin P. Jones
24 Type of primate
25 Morticia's man
26 — canto
27 Janitor's item
29 Asian ox
31 Broad st.
32 Colorless
34 Angers
36 Munched like a mouse
39 Part 2 of remark
45 Profit from tickets
46 Playground game
47 School founded by Henry VI
48 Fast way to the UK
49 Christmas visitors
50 Famed futurologist
52 Stoltz or Sevareid
54 Mist
58 Socialite Perle
60 "Stop!"
62 Overact
65 Sports-caster Allen
66 Throw a party
68 Caviar
69 Field of study
70 "— pro nobis"
71 Singer Secada
74 Part 3 of remark
78 "— -Tiki"
79 Thurman of "Dangerous Liaisons"
80 Prepare to fly
81 Skater Babilonia
82 Spilled the beans
84 Fool
85 Casual speech
87 Luxurious fabric
89 Actor Christopher
92 Pitfall
94 Use a poniard
96 Fortifies with fleece
98 Actress Ward
100 Pecs' partners
103 Bronte heroine
105 Velvet finish
106 Conform
107 Part 4 of remark
112 Unimaginative
113 Tivoli's Villa d'—
114 Pull the Trigger?
115 Fireplace fuel
116 Agt.
118 Wagner hero
121 Sp. lady
124 TV's "Touched by an —"
127 Nautical rope
129 End of remark
132 Diacritical mark
133 Think alike
134 Tolkien villain
135 "Splendor in the Grass" director
136 Humpback's home
137 Soup veggies
138 Minuscule
139 Actress Verdugo

DOWN

1 Wound covering
2 Good place for a dip
3 Evangelist Roberts
4 Word with take or hang
5 Make lace
6 Flirt
7 Burden
8 Exemplar of redness
9 Swarthy sort
10 Computer acronym
11 "Up-Up and —" ('67 hit)
12 Lodger
13 Kuvasz or Komondor
14 Author Umberto
15 Hot stuff?
16 Soccer team
17 Brought down the house
20 Pay with plastic
23 At rest
28 Brooch
30 Ghoulish rockers
32 Coming from Krakow
33 Current unit
35 Musical Dinah
37 Small shots
38 One of the Marches
39 The end?
40 Cheat
41 Spice-rack item
42 Tough
43 Look the other way
44 Muppet drummer
50 Retainer
51 Adam's grandson
53 French painter
55 Out of control
56 Actor Mostel
57 Spirit
59 Promotes
61 Works in the lab
63 The 3 —
64 Bald bird
67 Where to find Alice
71 Impartial
72 Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star
73 Oenophile's mecca
75 Architectural feature
76 Leave port
77 More obsequious
83 Emulate Ungaro
86 Crystal of country
88 Pants part
90 Reject
91 Fiorucci of fashion
93 Generic grade?
95 Hog hair
97 Bewitch
99 Clause connector
101 Campy grp.?
102 "— It Up" ('73 hit)
104 Steak or lobster
106 Memo letters
107 Paradoxical
108 Type of fastener
109 North Pole sight
110 I.M. the architect
111 Man the bar
112 Student of Socrates
117 Kid at court
119 Barge
120 Ripped
121 — up (evaluate)
122 Colt color
123 Psycho-analyst Freud
125 Author LeShan
126 Deighton or Berman
128 Bikini part
130 Presidential nickname
131 Chess champ Mikhail



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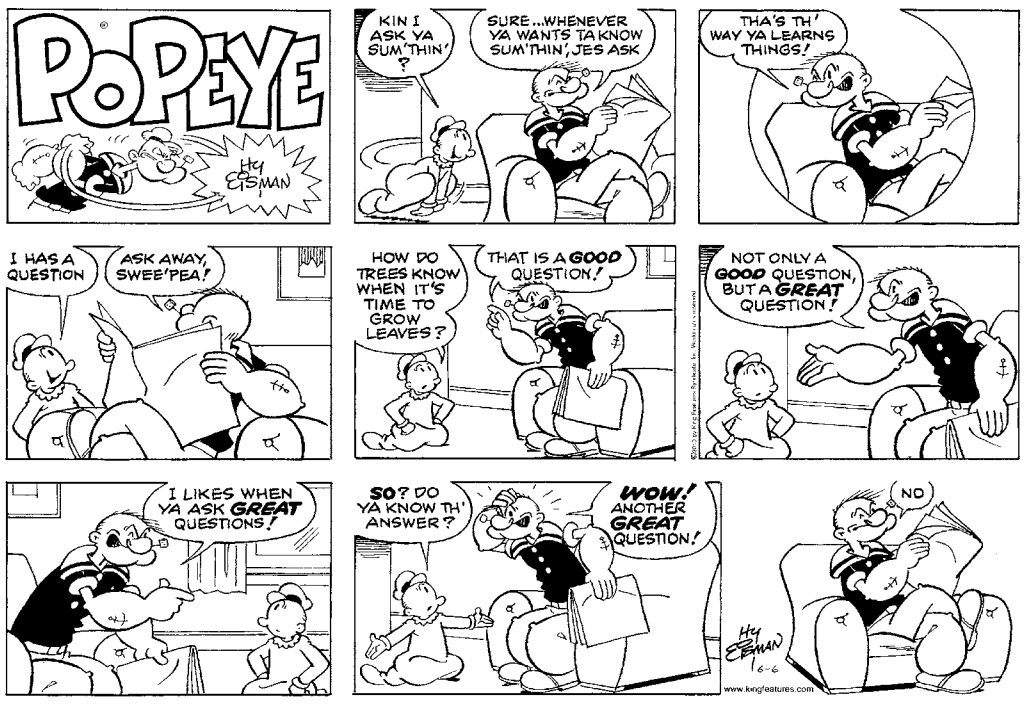
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Hy EISMAN
KIN I ASK YA SUM'THIN'?
SURE...WHENEVER YA WANTS TA KNOW SUM'THIN', JES ASK
THA'S TH' WAY YA LEARNS THINGS!
I HAS A QUESTION
ASK AWAY, SWEE'PEA!
HOW DO TREES KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME TO GROW LEAVES?
THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION!
NOT ONLY A GOOD QUESTION, BUT A GREAT QUESTION!
I LIKES WHEN YA ASK GREAT QUESTIONS!
SO? DO YA KNOW TH' ANSWER?
WOW! ANOTHER GREAT QUESTION!
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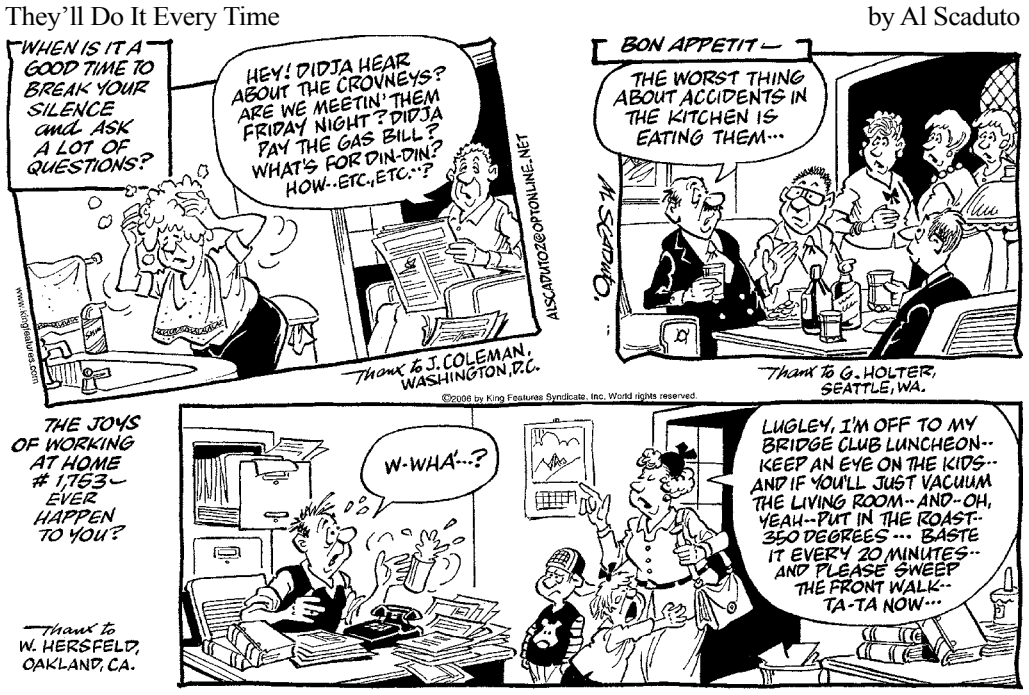
They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto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HEY! DIDJA HEAR ABOUT THE CROWNEYS? ARE WE MEETIN' THEM FRIDAY NIGHT? DIDJA PAY THE GAS BILL? WHAT'S FOR DIN-DIN? HOW--ETC.,ETC.--?
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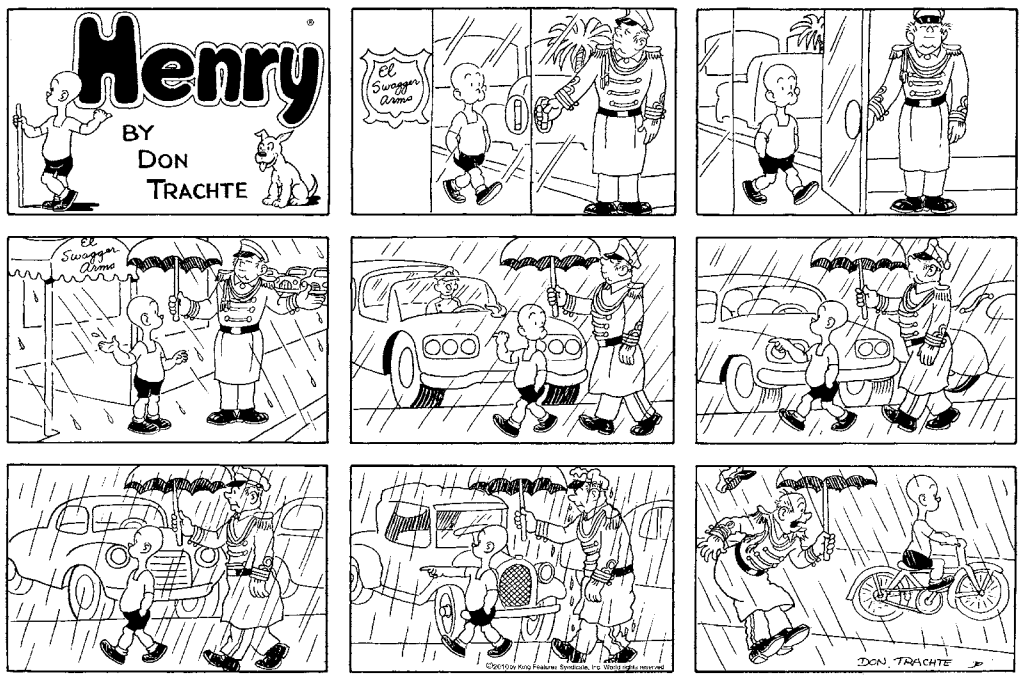
Thank to W. HERSFELD, OAKLAND, CA.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In currency, what is a watermark, and why is it used?
2. TELEVISION: What TV show featured the neighbors named Lenny and Squiggy?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which of the Great Lakes is located entirely within the United States?
4. MOVIES: What book is the movie "Clueless" loosely based upon?
5. MEASUREMENTS: What measurement is used to determine the height of a horse?
6. SCIENCE: What instrument is used to measure atmospheric pressure?
7. MATH: What are congruent angles?
8. TRADITIONS: Traditional Chinese brides might wear which color of dress on their wedding days?
9. MUSIC: Which Christmas carol features the phrase "the weary world rejoices"?
10. MEDICAL TERMS: What's a common name for deglutition?

Answers

1. A distinguishing mark on paper money to prevent counterfeit
2. "Laverne & Shirley"
3. Lake Michigan
4. "Emma," by Jane Austen
5. Hands (one hand equals 4 inches)
6. Barometer
7. Angles that have the same measure in degrees
8. Red, for good luck
9. "O Holy Night"
10. Swallowing

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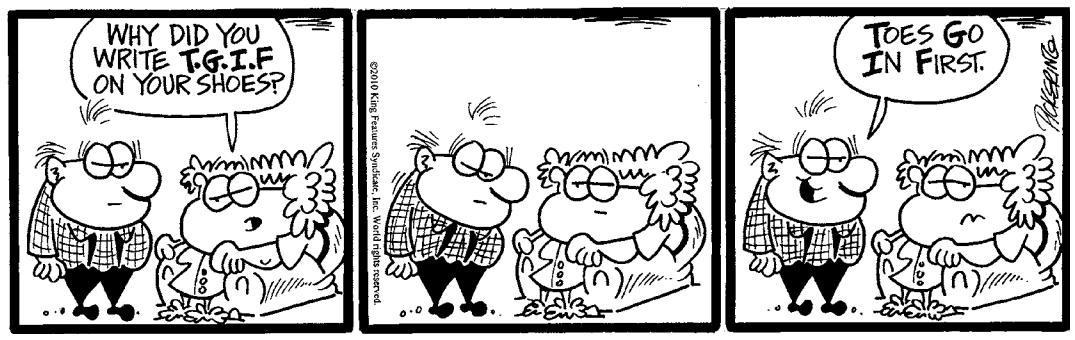
Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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DPH to ask for extension of emergency declar
XIX, Issue No. 299
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for O
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 fund seven programs and proj tained in the Conference Rep Year 2010 Consolidated Ap Act, a $447-billion spendin
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‘Big Baby’ big key for Celtics as finals tied 2-2

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics have tied up the NBA finals, and they owe it more to “Big Baby” than the Big Three.

Backup Glen “Big Baby” Davis scored half of his 18 points in the fourth quarter on Thursday night as the Celtics bench pulled away from the Los Angeles Lakers to win 96-89 and even the best-of-seven series at two games apiece.

“Just will, that’s all it is,” Davis said. “This is what legends are made of, this is where you grasp the moment. ... Just play in the moment.”

Kobe Bryant scored 33 points and Pau Gasol had 21 for the Lakers.

Game 5 is Sunday night in Boston. The Celtics’ win guaranteed them a trip back to Los Angeles and averted a 3-1 deficit that has never been overcome in NBA finals history.

“We know what to do. We know how to play. We know how to get it done,” Gasol said. “And we know how important Game 5 will be, so we’ve just got to get ourselves mentally and physically ready ... to accomplish our mission.”

Paul Pierce scored 19 points, Kevin Garnett had 13 and Ray Allen bounced back from a seven-quarter shooting slump to score 12 points for Boston. But the new Big Three that led the Celtics to their unprecedented 17th NBA title in 2008—beating the Lakers in the finals—was on the bench for much of the fourth-quarter run that gave Boston the lead for good.

And that was fine with them.

“I don’t think guys really care and that’s why we’re here, it really is,” Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. “(Rajon) Rondo and the rest of them, they were begging me to keep guys in. ‘Don’t take them out! Don’t take them out!’ It was great. That’s the loudest I’ve seen our bench, and it was the starters cheering from the bench.”

Boston’s starters were back in the game when Bryant scored 10 of the Lakers’ last 12 points, hitting all three free throws to make it 92-86 after he was fouled attempting a 3-pointer with 1:08 left. But then Rondo stole a pass from Bryant and took it the length of the court for a layup that made it an eight-point lead with 32 seconds left.

And this time, the reserves were cheering for the starters.

“All I’m thinking about is, ‘Let’s win,’” Davis said. “I’m not thinking about anything else. I’m not even thinking about Kobe making all these shots, worried about this or worried about that. I’m just worried about winning, whatever it takes to win, and just making sure that I give my teammates positive energy to finish out the game.”

Bryant hit three straight 3-pointers to give the Lakers a 62-58 lead with 1:25 left in the third. Davis’ putback left the Celtics trailing by two points heading into the final quarter, and he scored on a reverse layup in the opening minute of the fourth to tie it.

Gasol made a basket to give L.A. the lead—its last of the game—before Allen scored, Davis followed, Allen made another basket and Davis followed with a three-point play that made it 71-64 with 8:22 left.

“They got all the energy points, the hustle points, second chance points, points in the paint, beat us to the loose balls,” Bryant said. “I mean, that’s how the game turned around.”

In all, the Celtics scored 13 of 15 points during a five-minute span when Allen was the only starter on the court, mostly with Davis, Rasheed Wallace, Nate Robinson and Tony Allen. Asked if he was surprised to see his bench extend the lead, Rivers said: “I’m happy. I don’t know about surprised.”

“We’ve done that during the season, but this is the finals,” Rivers said. “So it’s obviously different against such a quality team.”

Asked for his team’s strategy in stopping the Celtics’ bench, Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, “No, I don’t want to talk about that.”

Davis played along.

“I don’t have no comment, either,” he said. “If Phil Jackson don’t have no comment, then I don’t have no comment.”

Robinson scored 12 points in 17 minutes as the Celtics’ bench outscored the Lakers’ 36-18. Ten of L.A.’s bench points came from Lamar Odom, who played 39 minutes after starting center Andrew Bynum tested his sore knee but did not play in the second half.

“We just knew we had to bring our energy, that’s the main thing for us,” Robinson said of his fellow reserves. “The more energy we bring, the better offensively we are and the better defensively we are.”

Boston Celtics forward Glen Davis (11) guard Nate Robinson, rear, celebrate a scoring run against the Los Angeles Lakers during the fourth quarter in Game 4 of the NBA basketball finals Thursday, June 10, 2010, in Boston.

AP

USC hit hard by NCAA sanctions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Southern California was no ordinary football program over the past decade, winning seven straight Pac-10 titles and two national championships while annually fielding a gleaming array of NFL prospects.

That’s just one reason the Trojans received no ordinary penalties when the NCAA finally announced on Thursday the results of its four-year investigation.

The NCAA threw the book at storied USC, imposing a two-year bowl ban, four years’ probation and significant scholarship losses that likely will damage the program’s foundations. The Trojans also must vacate 12 wins from the 2005 season, all stemming from improper benefits given to Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush by fledgling sports marketers dating back to the 2004 national championship.

The NCAA ripped USC for a lack of institutional control, condemning the star treatment afforded to Bush and former basketball player O.J. Mayo, who spent just one year with the Trojans before bolting to the NBA and leaving the men’s program in shambles.

“The real issue here is if you have high-profile players that your enforcement staff has to monitor ... it is extremely likely that the people who are receiving these interactions outside the institution are going to receive a bigger reward,” said Paul Dee, chairman of the NCAA’s committee on infractions. “So higher-profile players require higher-profile monitoring.”

With pointed language, the NCAA said in its report that USC’s oversight of its top athletes ran contrary to the fundamental principles of amateur sports. In a particular slap to the Hollywood-friendly Trojans football team, the NCAA banned most non-essential people from attending practice or standing on the sidelines during games, a favorite pastime of actor Will Ferrell and other wealthy alumni.

“Elite athletes in high profile sports with obvious great future earnings potential may see themselves as something apart from other student-athletes and the general student population,” the NCAA report said. “Institutions need to assure that their treatment on campus does not feed into such a perception.”

The coaches who presided over the alleged misdeeds—football’s Pete Carroll and basketball’s Tim Floyd—left USC in the past year.

USC reacted with uniform outrage to the harshness of the sanctions, promising an appeal.

“I’m absolutely shocked and disappointed in the findings of the NCAA,” Carroll said in a video statement produced by the NFL’s Seattle Seahawks, who hired him in January. “I never thought it would come to this.”

The penalties include the loss of 30 football scholarships over three years and vacating 14 victories in which Bush played from December 2004 through the 2005 season. USC beat Oklahoma in the BCS title game on Jan. 4, 2005, and won 12 games during Bush’s Heisman-winning 2005 season, which ended with a loss to Texas in the 2006 BCS title game.

Greece, S. Korea meet in opening match at World Cup

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (AP)—South Korea and Greece, two teams with their best results of the decade well behind them, meet Saturday in a World Cup match that could have a pivotal bearing on Group B.

South Korea was a surprise semifinalist in 2002 when it co-hosted the World Cup with Japan, while Greece won the 2004 European Championship.

Neither has gone near those highs since, but both have a realistic chance of advancing from a group that also contains powerhouse Argentina and Nigeria.

South Korea started off the 2006 World Cup in Germany by beating Togo 2-1, its first win a World Cup outside Asia, then earned a 1-1 draw with France on a late equalizer from Manchester United’s Park Ji-sung. But the Koreans lost 2-0 to Switzerland, preventing them from advancing to the second round in their seventh trip to the World Cup.

This is Greece’s second appearance at the sport’s marquee event, and the first was extremely forgettable. After finishing first and undefeated in its qualifying group, Greece went to the United States in 1994 with high expectations but lost 4-0 to Argentina, 4-0 to Bulgaria and 2-0 to Nigeria.

Ten years later, Greek football was at an all-time high with its win in the Euros. But Greece couldn’t build on that performance, failing to qualify for the 2006 World Cup.

In the 2008 European Championships, things got even worse. Greece lost all three games and scored just one goal, becoming the first defending champion not to pick up a competition point in the subsequent edition of the tournament.

Greece started off its qualifying campaign for South Africa with wins over Luxembourg, Latvia and Moldova, scoring eight goals and conceding none in Group 2 en route to the European playoff draw against Ukraine. After a 0-0 draw in Athens, Greece earned a 1-0 second-leg win in Donetsk, the decisive goal coming from Dimitrios Salpingidis.

Greece’s chances against South Korea on Saturday won’t be helped by news that center back Vangelis Moras will sit out the match despite having recovered from a persistent groin injury.

Moras had been receiving daily physiotherapy instead of training in an attempt to overcome the nagging injury. Tests Wednesday showed he was fully recovered, but he said it is too early to be plunged into a World Cup match.

“I don’t want to risk it,” Moras said. “I want to be fit for Nigeria.”

Greece faces Nigeria on June 17 and Group B favorite Argentina on June 22.

Three Greek players will arrive in Port Elizabeth on Friday morning with thinner pocketbooks after having had money stolen from their hotel rooms near Durban earlier this week.

A police spokesman said the unidentified players reported that euro1,600 ($1,921) had been stolen from their rooms on Tuesday night at the Beverly Hills Hotel in the resort of Umhlanga.

Olympiakos defender Vassilis Torosidis and Celtic striker Georgios Samaras will lead Greece, while Park and midfielder Lee Chung-yong will do the same for South Korea, which arrived in Port Elizabeth on Thursday and held a training session at a local stadium.

South Korea and Greece will hold their first and only training session at Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium on Friday, about 24 hours ahead of their afternoon match in the new 45,000-seat facility nicknamed the “Sunflower” because of the unique design of its roof.

Port Elizabeth was the birthplace of the 91-year-old former South African president Mandela, who led the country from 1994 to 1999 after spending 27 years in prison due to his anti-apartheid activities.

Latos outpitches Santana as Padres stop Mets roll

NEW YORK (AP)—Jonathon Niese pitched a one-hitter for his first career complete game and the New York Mets overcame a triple play to beat the San Diego Padres 3-0 on Thursday night for a doubleheader split.

Niese (3-2) allowed only Chris Denorfia's leadoff double in the third inning, his second stellar start since coming off the disabled list Saturday. He faced 28 batters, one more than the minimum, in New York's first complete game this season. Jon Garland (6-4) took the loss for San Diego.

Marlins 2, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Josh Johnson outdueled Roy Halladay in their perfect game rematch, pitching eight dominant innings as Florida beat Philadelphia.

Johnson and Halladay last met on May 29 in Miami, when the Phillies ace threw the 20th perfect game in major league history in a 1-0 win.

This time, Johnson (7-2) gave up three hits, walked one and struck out five as the Marlins ended a four-game losing streak.

Reds 7, Giants 6

At Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips had four hits, including a two-run triple in the eighth inning that rallied Cincinnati to yet another comeback win.

Phillips' triple off Guillermo Mota (0-2) tied it at 6. Joey Votto's single up the middle gave the Reds their 12th win in their final at-bat, the most in the majors.

Astros 5, Rockies 4

At Denver, Roy Oswalt struck out nine, Humberto Quintero homered and Houston won its third straight.

Quintero got three hits and Tommy Manzella drove in a career-high three runs. Oswalt (4-8) gave up four hits over seven innings and left with a 5-2 lead.

Brewers 5, Cubs 4, 10 innings

At Milwaukee, Carlos Gomez raced home from first base on a sacrifice bunt and throwing error in the 10th inning, giving Milwaukee a wild victory over Chicago.

Gomez pinch-hit and drew a leadoff walk from Bob Howry (1-1). Craig Counsell followed with a bunt and the speedy Gomez rounded second base and just kept going. First baseman Xavier Nady's frantic throw to third sailed wild, allowing Gomez to score.

Nationals 4, Pirates 2

At Washington, Adam Dunn and Josh Willingham homered in the fourth inning to support Livan Hernandez as Washington beat Pittsburgh.

The Nationals became the last team this season to sweep a series, after Stephen Strasburg won his big league debut Tuesday night before a sellout crowd of 40,315. The next two nights were tame events by comparison—drawing 40,637 for both games combined—but all three count equally as wins for a Nationals team that has pulled within a game of .500.

Braves 11, Diamondbacks 7

At Phoenix, Brooks Conrad scrambled home to break a ninth-inning tie as Atlanta beat Arizona despite blowing a five-run lead.

The speedy Conrad hit for David Ross, who had a double, single and two RBIs. Conrad singled, stole second and made a headfirst slide to score on pinch-hitter Brian McCann's one-out single off closer Chad Qualls (1-3).

Indians 8, Red Sox 7

At Cleveland, Russell Branyan hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning Thursday night, rallying the Cleveland Indians to a crazy win over the Boston Red Sox.

Cleveland overcame three errors in one inning by third baseman Andy Marte, a blown save by Kerry Wood and an eighth-inning disruption by two unruly fans.

Adrian Beltre's two-out, two-run homer in the ninth off Wood (1-2) put Boston ahead 7-6.

AP

San Diego Padres' Mat Latos delivers a pitch in the first inning of the first game of a doubleheader baseball game against the New York Mets Thursday, June 10, 2010, in New York.

White Sox 3, Tigers 0

At Chicago, John Danks pitched seven innings of one-hit ball and Omar Vizquel homered and had a suicide-squeeze bunt as the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 3-0.

A.J. Pierzynski also homered for the White Sox, who have won two straight games—just their fourth winning streak this season.

Athletics 6, Angels 1

At Oakland, California, Trevor Cahill allowed one run in a career-high eight innings to win his fourth straight start as Oakland beat nemesis Ervin Santana and Los Angeles.

Ryan Sweeney scored three times and Daric Barton drove in one run and scored two for the Athletics.

The A's struck for two runs in the fourth and three in the fifth against Santana (6-4), who came into the game with an 11-2 record and a 1.50 ERA in 19 career appearances against Oakland. His ERA was the lowest any pitcher with at least 10 starts had against the A's.

Orioles 4, Yankees 3

At. Baltimore, Jake Arrieta pitched six innings of four-hit ball to win his major league debut as Baltimore ended its 10-game losing streak against New York.

Arrieta gave up three runs and outpitched veteran A.J. Burnett (6-4), who came in 11-2 lifetime against Baltimore and 5-0 at Camden Yards.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 2

At Florida, Brett Cecil won his fifth consecutive start, Alex Gonzalez homered and drove in two runs as Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

Cecil (7-2) allowed one run and three hits over 6 2-3 innings. The left-hander has given up six earned runs in 36 1-3 innings over that stretch.

The Blue Jays had been outscored 19-1 in losing the first two games of the three-game series.

Royals 9, Twins 8

At Minneapolis, Wilson Betemit hit solo home runs from both sides of the plate and Joakim Soria picked up his 14th save in a hairy ninth inning as Kansas City beat Minnesota.

Betemit hit one left-handed in the second inning after Mitch Maier's two-run shot to help the Royals jump out to an 8-1 lead, then hit one from the right side in the ninth. It was the sixth time in franchise history that a Kansas City player has homered from both sides of the plate in the same game.

Rangers 12, Mariners 3

At Texas, Josh Hamilton homered for the fourth time in seven games, Michael Young went 3 for 4 with a homer, and Texas won its third straight over Seattle.

Hamilton got the Rangers' offense rolling with a two-run homer in a three-run first.

Hamilton had three RBIs, giving him 13 during a seven-game homestand. Hamilton has driven in at least one run in seven straight games, the longest streak by a Ranger this season.

Westwood opens with 7-under 63 for Memphis lead

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Lee Westwood prefers competition the week before a major to tune up his play. The Englishman looks quite ready now for the U.S. Open based on his opening round at the St. Jude Classic.

Westwood took advantage of no wind and a rain-softened course to shoot a 7-under 63 Thursday that equaled his best on the PGA Tour and gave him a one-stroke lead in the suspended first round. The world's No. 3-ranked player tied the course record for the back nine with a 29 with four of his five birdies and an eagle. He parred out his final eight holes.

"Pleased with the start, 63 is always a good start," Westwood said. "I couldn't be disappointed with that. Could have been better, but I'm not going to cry too much about missing from 4 feet on the last."

Not bad for someone who flew from London to San Francisco to play 27 holes Sunday at Pebble Beach with another 18 Monday before heading to Memphis. Westwood played nine holes Tuesday and a practice round Wednesday in his first visit to this course, but wound up with near-perfect scoring conditions in the eighth group off the 10th tee Thursday.

"My caddie said normally there's a bit of breeze that blows. You try and score when you get your morning time on the first two days when it's fairly calm, so that's what I tried to do," Westwood said.

Casey Wittenberg shot a 64, Padraig Harrington had a 65 and Tim Petrovic, John Senden and Bob Estes were among eight tied at 66 before a severe thunderstorm stopped play for nearly an hour. The round was suspended with 20 golfers left on the course.

No one teeing off in the afternoon cracked the leaderboard with muggy conditions smothering the course with 100-degree heat, and wind that usually toughens this course staying relatively still before the storms developed.

"It was probably as easy conditions as you will get out here on Southwind," said Garrett Willis, who shot 66 in the morning.

Defending champ Brian Gay, who was under par each round in winning a year ago, opened with a 73. Jordan Spieth, the Texas teen who became the sixth-youngest player to make a PGA cut at the Byron Nelson last month, shot a 73.

Westwood is playing on a sponsor's exemption extended after being originally turned down. That prompted him to joke to reporters at the time it might be due to his sponsorship deal with UPS for an event in a town where rival FedEx is headquartered. He had been given an exemption two years ago, then withdrew a week before the tournament.

"I've never been to Memphis, so it's somewhere I wanted to come and play," Westwood said. "It's the week before the U.S. Open. I like to be competitive before a major championship. I played Houston before the Masters. Being competitive means more to me than actually adapting to the conditions. ... I like to get used to making the 3-, 4-footers when they mean something."

Westwood mixed good putting with strong iron play, needing only 11 of his 24 putts through his first 10 holes. He rolled in a 30-footer on the par-4 15th and a 15-footer on the par-4 18th for birdies. He stuck a 5-wood within 4 feet to set up his eagle putt on the par-4 No. 16.

The putter failed him on his 18th hole, the par-4 No. 9, as he just missed from 4 feet.

Westwood matched the 63 he shot during the third-round of the 2005 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational. The 37-year-old Englishman is playing well this year, having made the cut in all seven events here this year including second at the Masters with four top 10s.

He got started with an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 12, then hit a 5-iron to 5 feet on the par-3 14th for a birdie-birdie-eagle stretch. After a 29 on the back side to match the mark last shot by Tom Pernice Jr. in 2004, Westwood said he wasn't even aware of that mark.

Did he think of cracking 60 as he made the turn to the easier side?

"I didn't dwell on that for too long," Westwood said. "I've had a chance to shoot 59 before. You tend not to do it when you let your mind get away from you a little bit. I was just trying to hit good shots really and carry on doing what I had been doing on the front nine."

Westwood hit into the water on the par-5 third before just missing with the putter on Nos. 4 and 5. He saved par on No. 7 with a 15-footer.

Wittenberg, who lives next to the course, took advantage of his local knowledge and his father carrying his bag to equal his low round on the PGA Tour. This is his first start this year on a sponsor's exemption, and he said he's relaxed knowing he didn't qualify for the U.S. Open.

Wittenberg has missed his last four cuts on the Nationwide Tour this season.

"My expectations are really kind of low. I knew if I could come out here and hit good golf shots that maybe I could get something going," Wittenberg said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	39	21	.650	—
New York	37	23	.617	2
Boston	35	27	.565	5
Toronto	34	27	.557	5 1/2
Baltimore	17	43	.283	22

Central Division

Minnesota	35	25	.583	—
Detroit	30	29	.508	4 1/2
Chicago	26	33	.441	8 1/2
Kansas City	25	36	.410	10 1/2
Cleveland	23	36	.390	11 1/2

West Division

Texas	33	27	.550	—
Los Angeles	33	30	.524	1 1/2
Oakland	32	30	.516	2
Seattle	23	37	.383	10

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	35	26	.574	—
Philadelphia	31	27	.534	2 1/2
New York	32	28	.533	2 1/2
Washington	30	31	.492	5
Florida	29	31	.483	5 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	35	26	.574	—
St. Louis	33	27	.550	1 1/2
Chicago	27	33	.450	7 1/2
Milwaukee	25	35	.417	9 1/2
Houston	25	36	.410	10
Pittsburgh	23	37	.383	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	36	24	.600	—
San Diego	35	25	.583	1
San Francisco	32	27	.542	3 1/2
Colorado	30	30	.500	6
Arizona	24	37	.393	12 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 7, San Francisco 6
Milwaukee 5, Chicago Cubs 4, 10 innings
Houston 5, Colorado 4
Atlanta 11, Arizona 7
Florida 2, Philadelphia 0
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 2
San Diego 4, N.Y. Mets 2, 1st game
N.Y. Mets 3, San Diego 0, 2nd game
Chicago White Sox 3, Detroit 0
Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 1
Cleveland 8, Boston 7
Baltimore 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Toronto 3, Tampa Bay 2
Texas 12, Seattle 3
Kansas City 9, Minnesota 8

ST JUDE CLASSIC SCORES

Memphis, Tennesee (AP)–Scores Thursday after the partial first round of the PGA Tour's $5.6 million, St. Jude Classic at the 7,117 yard TPC Southwind. Note: Play was suspended due to lightning. First round will resume Friday.

FIRST ROUND

Lee Westwood	34-29–63	-7
Casey Wittenberg	34-30–64	-6
Padraig Harrington	32-33–65	-5
Tim Petrovic	33-33–66	-4
John Senden	34-32–66	-4
Jay Williamson	34-32–66	-4
Phil Tataurangi	31-35–66	-4
D.J. Trahan	35-31–66	-4
Garrett Willis	34-32–66	-4
Bob Estes	33-33–66	-4
Michael Connell	33-33–66	-4
Robert Garrigus	32-35–67	-3
Charles Howell III	34-33–67	-3
Zach Johnson	34-33–67	-3
Ben Crane	32-35–67	-3
Ryuji Imada	33-34–67	-3
Greg Kraft	32-35–67	-3
Kent Jones	33-34–67	-3
Chad Collins	34-33–67	-3
Jeev Milkha Singh	34-33–67	-3
Dean Wilson	33-34–67	-3
Robert Karlsson	33-34–67	-3
Charley Hoffman	34-33–67	-3
Kirk Triplett	33-35–68	-2
Paul Stankowski	33-35–68	-2
Chris Riley	31-37–68	-2
Kevin Na	34-34–68	-2
Vaughn Taylor	36-32–68	-2
Jeff Quinney	34-34–68	-2
Rich Barcelo	34-34–68	-2
Justin Bolli	34-34–68	-2
Roger Tambellini	35-33–68	-2
Jeff Maggert	34-34–68	-2
Lee Janzen	33-35–68	-2
Shaun Micheel	35-33–68	-2
Nicholas Thompson	35-33–68	-2
Glen Day	34-34–68	-2
Alex Cejka	34-34–68	-2
Jason Dufner	34-34–68	-2
Mathias Gronberg	32-37–69	-1
Billy Mayfair	34-35–69	-1
Cameron Beckman	35-34–69	-1
Johnson Wagner	36-33–69	-1
Greg Owen	33-36–69	-1
Chris Rogers	34-35–69	-1
Rory McIlroy	35-34–69	-1
Heath Slocum	36-33–69	-1
Boo Weekley	33-36–69	-1
Woody Austin	34-35–69	-1
Jonathan Byrd	35-34–69	-1
Dicky Pride	33-36–69	-1
Fredrik Jacobson	33-36–69	-1
Ryan Palmer	33-37–70	E
Will MacKenzie	33-37–70	E
Chris Stroud	36-34–70	E
Omar Uresti	33-37–70	E
Roland Thatcher	35-35–70	E
Gary Woodland	31-39–70	E
Chad Campbell	34-36–70	E
Webb Simpson	34-36–70	E
Brandt Snedeker	36-34–70	E
Stephen Ames	38-32–70	E
Michael Bradley	34-36–70	E
Chris DiMarco	35-35–70	E
Frank Lickliter II	36-35–71	+1
Parker McLachlin	33-38–71	+1
Kevin Stadler	38-33–71	+1
Michael Clark II	36-35–71	+1
Chris Wilson	34-37–71	+1
Matt Weibring	35-36–71	+1
Joe Durant	34-37–71	+1
Harrison Frazar	37-34–71	+1
Marco Dawson	34-37–71	+1
John Rollins	36-35–71	+1
Camilo Villegas	34-37–71	+1
David Toms	35-36–71	+1
Richard S. Johnson	34-37–71	+1
Bill Lunde	35-36–71	+1
Tim Wilkinson	33-38–71	+1
John Daly	36-35–71	+1
J.L. Lewis	38-34–72	+2
Steve Elkington	38-34–72	+2
Jeff Gove	37-35–72	+2
J.B. Holmes	35-37–72	+2
Rod Pampling	36-36–72	+2
Ian Poulter	32-40–72	+2
Retief Goosen	35-37–72	+2
Brett Wetterich	36-36–72	+2
Jim Carter	34-38–72	+2
Charles Warren	34-38–72	+2
Brenden Pappas	36-36–72	+2
Spencer Levin	35-37–72	+2
John Huston	36-37–73	+3
Mark Brooks	36-37–73	+3
Chris Smith	38-35–73	+3
Brian Gay	36-37–73	+3
Steve Lowery	37-36–73	+3
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-38–73	+3
Mark Hensby	35-38–73	+3
Len Mattiace	34-39–73	+3
Brian Stuard	36-37–73	+3
Aron Price	37-36–73	+3
David Schultz	37-36–73	+3
Spike McRoy	35-38–73	+3
Garth Mulroy	36-37–73	+3
Jordan Spieth	37-36–73	+3
Skip Kendall	36-37–73	+3
Cliff Kresge	36-37–73	+3
Nathan Green	36-37–73	+3
Joe Ogilvie	34-39–73	+3
J.J. Henry	35-38–73	+3
Jay Delsing	39-35–74	+4
Jason Gore	37-37–74	+4
D.A. Points	38-36–74	+4
Justin Leonard	37-37–74	+4
Jim Gallagher, Jr.	38-36–74	+4
Tim Herron	35-39–74	+4
Todd Hamilton	38-36–74	+4
Craig Barlow	34-40–74	+4
James Driscoll	35-39–74	+4
Stuart Appleby	40-35–75	+5
Matt Bettencourt	33-42–75	+5
Ted Purdy	38-37–75	+5
Paul Goydos	39-36–75	+5
Robin Freeman	37-38–75	+5
Craig Bowden	35-40–75	+5
Daniel Chopra	39-37–76	+6
John Morse	38-38–76	+6
Charl Schwartzel	35-41–76	+6
Scott McCarron	36-40–76	+6
Guy Boros	39-37–76	+6
Jonathan Kaye	36-40–76	+6
Steve Flesch	40-37–77	+7

Failed to complete first round

Josh Teater	DNF
John Merrick	DNF
Troy Merritt	DNF
Matt Every	DNF
Mathew Goggin	DNF
Henrik Bjornstad	DNF
Manuel Villegas	DNF
Brent Delahoussaye	DNF
David Lutterus	DNF
Cameron Tringale	DNF
Grant Leaver	DNF
Steve Wheatcroft	DNF
Cameron Percy	DNF
Mike Small	DNF
Michael O'Neal	DNF
Martin Flores	DNF
Andrew McLardy	DNF
Vance Veazey	DNF
Jarrod Lyle	DNF
Scott Moran	DNF

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE TALES FROM THE TRAILS

'Mental endurance was key in Gear 10 success'

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Guam Extreme Adventure Race 10 pro division champions "Don't Be a Kitty" attests that the race was more of a test of mental endurance than just physical exertion.

"In a long race like this, you have a variety of emotions. One moment you can be feeling great and then within a short period of time, you can feel absolutely horrible. At times it can eat at you when you're hot, tired, and thinking about the long day ahead of you, but for this race the lows were few, so even though it took over 21 hours, the time flew by," said team member Russ Quinn.

Teammate Yosh Gabaldon couldn't agree more and said: "Our bodies were subjected to both physical and mental fatigue, yet it was amazing how we all took care of each other and focused on our main goal—to do this race as friends."

"To me, no, but it was very hot in Guam and it was still tough, but the mental challenge counts for at least 50 percent of succeeding in any adventure race," Quinn added.

Quinn said the most difficult part of GEAR 10 for him was the coasteering section. He had trouble keeping his footing in the current while walking along the uneven rocky coastline.

His teammate helped him out by carrying more of the gear through the section, but Quinn got to return the favor later on during the mountain biking segment.

"Our goal was, to finish, have fun, remain friends, and enjoy the experience. All those goals were accomplished and we won it. That was a great feeling! Just finishing this type of race is a huge accomplishment; to win it in Guam's backyard makes it even more special," said Quinn.

Galbaldon added, "To me, although the physical challenge was demanding, it was the mental aspect that was worse, but Russ was great on getting me back on track. He reminded me that we would take whatever time necessary to recover."

Quinn concluded by giving a shout out to a couple of Saipan racers in the social division.

"I do have to give props to the other Saipan Team that raced in Guam. Dr. Richard Brostrom and Mike Johnson participated in the Social Division. These first-timers were in first place by more than an hour and a half with only one checkpoint to go, when they came across another team, who had a member that had a serious heat stroke. The Saipan team stopped and helped until he could be evacuated via helicopter. This cost them about two hours, but because of their selfless act, they may have saved a life, and they still finished the race in third place. If you think about it, both Saipan teams would have won both divisions and that's pretty cool," said Quinn.

"Don't be a Kitty" also expressed thanks to James Oelke, the GEAR 10 race director and their support crew, Nikki Gabaldon and Chris Fryling, who set up a temporary camps for the team at each transition area.

Aside from Quinn and Gabaldon, "Don't be a Kitty" was also made up of Tyce Mister and Mieko Carey. The four beat 13 other teams to win the pro division by finishing with a time of 21:37:00.

JI HOON

From Page 28

Pacific University. He will leave for New Caledonia on June 14 and will train there for several weeks. In between training sessions, Heo will join a group of elite players from Oceania in competing in various tournaments in the region.

Race said Heo has to gain ITF points from these tournaments to improve his rankings and earn a chance to compete in the U.S. Open Junior qualifier. The U.S. Open Junior will be held in September this year.

"He has to move up his rankings in the 300s and he can only do that by playing in different ITF tournaments," Race said.

Currently, Heo's Junior ITF rankings stand at No. 697. He moved up to as high as No. 619 in February this year. He is the lone player in Micronesian to earn ITF rankings.

"I felt bad that I will be missing the Micro Games and I won't be playing for the CNMI because I will be playing the B2 ITF during that time. I wish I could represent the CNMI and help the team win medals, but the schedule didn't work out very well this time," Heo said.

Race admitted Heo is the favorite to win the gold medal in the men's singles. However, despite the absence of 18-year-old player on the team, Race said the CNMI will still have strong chances to defend its overall title in the lawn tennis competition.

"With Heo around it will be easier to win the gold medals. But despite his absence, I believe we still have a pretty solid team with the defending gold medalist, Todd Montgomery, coming back to play in Palau," said Race, who will also play in the Micro Games.

Montgomery beat teammate Tim Quan in the men's singles gold medal match, while Race finished third during the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan. Heo played in the men's team event, which the CNMI also topped after edging Kosrae and the Marshall Islands.

MACARANAS

From Page 28

Show time for the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament is set for 9:30am, while tee time is at 11:30am. Cash prizes and trophies await winners of the double-peoria event.

In the hole-in-one contest in holes No. 3 and 12, winners will receive $5,000 each. The champion will earn $800 and a trophy, while second and third placers will get $500 and $300, respectively, as well as runner-up trophies. Fourth and fifth placers will receive in-kind prizes.

For a $20 entry fee, participants can also join the closest to the pin contest in holes No. 3, 7, 12, and 14. Tournament director Ted Malaran added there will be raffle prizes and more surprises during the awards ceremony that will run from 5pm to 9pm at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V.

Tournament fee for the weekend tournament is only $100 and includes greens fee and dinner during the awards banquet at Club V. For more information, contact Malaran at 287-1227, Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Mando Guban at 483-6033, Rene Batallones at 898-3367, and George Sablan at 483-4530.

BLUE

From Page 28

the visiting Marlins an early lead in the top of the first.

The Marlins held off WSR in the bottom half, but after the Marlins came up empty to start the second, the Kingfishers scored two runs in the bottom for a one-run lead.

Then in the top of the third, the Marlins answered back as Jaydrean Repeki and G-Boy Taitingfong made it around bases to put Kagman ahead, 3-2.

WSR came up empty in the bottom half and the Marlins added another run from Angel Dawe in the top of the fourth.

The Kingfishers failed to answer in the bottom half and both teams remained quiet in the fifth.

In the sixth inning a three-run homer by Vince Laniyo shot Kagman ahead, 7-2. Jose Lizama and Donald Pangelinan came to the plate with Laniyo.

WSR managed a run in the bottom half, but the score remained 7-3 after a scoreless final inning.

In the MISO girls' finals, the Lady Umangs of Koblerville Elementary were crowned MISO girls' champions after outlasting the Oleai Elementary School girls softball squad in a score of 6-2.

No other details of the match were made available to *Saipan Tribune*.

SPEED

From Page 28

"If we, as a team, can inspire each other in offense and keep pushing the ball in transition and converting, then maybe all the efforts will payoff," he added.

Joining Mendoza on the team are Bruce Berline, Yosh Gabaldon, John Palacios, Poland Yamada, Juan Manibusan, Gus Palacios, Dave Cepeda, Fred Acosta, Ernie Fernandez, and Benjie Tejada.

While IT&E is bragging about their fresher legs, Easy Does It is boasting off its ceiling and experience.

"We have the old days bangers, who want to prove that they still have what it takes to play against much younger guys," Easy Does It's Joe Pangelinan said.

"Our tall players would be able to help the team a lot in rebounds and defend against IT&E frontliners," said Pangelinan, who was talking of Joe Tudela, Eric Plinske, Oscar Sablan, and John Deleon Guerrero.

On offense, Easy Does It will be leaning on gunner Edgar Pangelinan, who averages close to 20 points per game in the league.

"I think our chances of winning the championship is 50-50. IT&E is a strong team and undefeated and we're also a tough team even though we lost to Brabu Bulls in the regular season. I guess, it will boil down to which team wants it more and show poise in the end," Joe Pangelinan added.

Latos outpitches Santana as Padres stop Mets roll

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

'Big Baby' big key for Celtics as finals tied 2-2

Page 25

Ji Hoon to miss Micro Games

» Aiming for US Open Jr. ticket

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ji Hoon Heo will not suit up for the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, as he opted to chase a bigger dream—a stint in the U.S. Open Junior.

CNMI coach Jeff Race confirmed Heo will not be representing the Commonwealth to the quadrennial event this August to compete in various tournaments in New Caledonia, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand and earn junior ITF ranking points.

"As a coach, how can you say no to a player who wants to dream big and play in one of the prestigious tournaments in the world. We have to let him go and support him all the way. He will bring great pride to the CNMI if he can make it to the tournament," Race said.

Heo is in Korea right now to secure a student visa, as he is also set to study at the Hawaii

See JI HOON on Page 27

Heo

Macaranas thanks Fil-Taga, urges golfers to join tourney tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

World Junior Golf Championship-bound R.J. Macaranas expressed his gratitude to Fil-Taga Golfers Association and is encouraging golfers on Saipan to participate in the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament.

The Fil-Taga-organized golf tournament will be held tomorrow at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort with Macaranas as one of the beneficiaries of the one-day event's proceeds.

"R.J. is very happy and thankful for Fil-Taga's kindness," Richard Macaranas, R.J.'s father said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

"We had already sent message to our friends and family to join the tournament, which will benefit R.J. and his campaign in the World Championship," the older Macaranas said.

The younger Macaranas will be representing the CNMI to the 2010 Callaway Junior World Golf Championships and the 2010 US Kids Golf World Championship next month.

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga said registration for the Sunday tournament is still open and interested golfers can still sign-up a few hours before the event kicks off. Fil-Taga is hoping to have 100 golfers in the tournament.

See MACARANAS on Page 27

R.J. Macaranas, seen here teeing off in a junior tournament in California, will be one of the beneficiaries of the proceeds from the Philippine Independence Open Golf Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blue Marlins win MISO boys softball title

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins defeated William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers, 7-3, in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys' Elementary Slow-pitch Softball League championship held Thursday afternoon at the Dan Dan Elementary School Ballfield.

In the boys' final, Carey Camacho came in to score to give

See BLUE on Page 27

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Members of Kagman Elementary School Blue Marlins are all smiles after defeating the William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfishers, 7-3, in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys' Elementary Slow-pitch Softball championship Thursday afternoon at Dan Dan Elementary School Ballfield.

Speed vs brawn in Masters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E and Easy Does It aim for history today when they square off for the first championship game in the 2010 MGD/MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League.

The one-game finals will be played starting at 1pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IT&E will have a slight advantage—record-wise—in the title duel, as it will go into the finals unbeaten in nine games. It swept the regular season and topped Pool A and then made it to the championship round after beating Team 10 and Konflict in the playoffs.

The Pool A top finisher also has the edge on speed and athleticism with most of its players in their late 30s and early 40s.

"Our strength is our speed. We just need to believe that we are capable of grabbing rebounds, too. Honestly if we just stick to the fundamentals for rebounding like boxing out, blocking out whether on the 3-point line or in the paint, and all five are crashing the boards, it is very possible to secure rebounds," IT&E skipper Edsel Mendoza said.

See SPEED on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's John Palacios, center, is hammered by two Team 10 players during their playoff game in the Masters caging last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. IT&E will face Easy Does It in today's title match.